



THE TIMES Tomorrow

Undercover Spectrum reveals the remarkable double life of a secret agent from the League Against Cruel Sports who infiltrated the hunting fraternity. Overwhelming Whatever happened to the economic recession? The great Paris courtiers, at least, have not noticed it during the past year. Suzy Menkes reports on the fashion world's orgy of opulence.

Arabs likely to restore Egypt links

The next summit of Arab countries is expected to allow them to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt on an individual basis. But the November summit is unlikely to restore Egypt's membership of the Arab League.

Action on rates

A White Paper will outline how the Government plans to take the first moves towards setting rates, so giving Whitehall full control of council spending.

Black crusader



The Rev Jesse Jackson who has fired his followers with the idea that a black can aspire to the American presidency

Steel improves

Close friends of Mr David Steel believe he is over the worst of the severe depression that followed his viral illness. He will resume the Liberal leadership in September

Odhams deal

A hypermarket is to be built on the former Odhams printing plant site at Watford as part of a £20m deal between Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation and J Sainsbury

Top of the class

A woman has come top of a course training young army officers in battlefield skills such as laying minefields, erecting bridges and demolition work

Niven funeral

The funeral of David Niven, the British actor who died on Friday aged 73, will take place in the Swiss mountain resort of Chateau d'Oex tomorrow

Crime shock

Australians have been shocked by two reports which suggest that the country has an underworld approaching American levels. Crime is said to be out of control

Priests' plea

Five priests have called for an independent inquiry into the death of a Roman Catholic youth

Silver lining

John Whitaker on Ryan's Son, a last-minute replacement for the British team, won the European individual showjumping silver medal at Hickstead

Leader page, 11 Letters: On Nicaragua from Mr J Corbyn, MP and others; the pill from Mr I. S. P. Barker and others; electricity prices; and the chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council Leading articles: America's economy; Government and the courts

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Press Bonds, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, etc, Weather, Wilds

Labour leadership contenders split on central issues

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party's four leadership contenders disagreed sharply last night over the extent to which the policies on which it fought the general election should be changed to help it regain popular support.

Fundamental differences between Mr Roy Hattersley, Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Peter Shore on such central policy areas as defence, the European Community, Labour Councils that attempt to defy rate limits, and the purge of Militant Tendency were exposed in the first, and probably only, leadership debate.

Mr Hattersley said in the televised confrontation that a third defeat for Labour would set socialism back for the rest of the century, perhaps forever. There would be voices in the party which said that no change was necessary and that "we can pull the bedclothes over our heads". But such complacency was extraordinary. To win Labour must distance itself from "corrosive extremism", recreate a party of mutual trust and understanding, and talk to the people in a language they understood.

But Mr Kinnock, who appeared during the debate on BBC's Newnight, to be confident of victory, said: "The main body of our policies must not be jettisoned."

The policies needed reappraisal and refinement. But in an aside apparently directed at Mr Shore and Mr Hattersley, he said: "To those people who believe our policies should be discarded in large part or to whole, I offer the advice of Bernard Shaw - 'If your face is dirty wash it. Don't cut your head off.'"

Mr Heffer said the election defeat must not be underestimated or glossed over, but it must not be used as an excuse

Election inquest 2 Union support 2

to throw over socialist objectives and policies. The policies put forward in the manifesto were good ones. They clearly needed refining, bringing up to date and clarifying, but they must not be abandoned.

Mr Shore underlined the difficulties facing any leadership team in redefining Labour's defence policy. He said that the party had to show the electorate that while it was striving for peace and disarmament it did not intend to leave Britain without adequate defence; that it was prepared to retain conventional and nuclear weapons to protect the country.

In a carefully worded statement of his position, Mr Kinnock said that Britain's nuclear status should be used

for the sole purpose "of securing force reductions, culminating in a non-nuclear defence strategy within the lifetime of a parliament".

Mr Shore, a long-time opponent of the EEC, appeared to be in disagreement with the other candidates over the party's stance on membership. Both Mr Hattersley and Mr Kinnock made it clear that they were in favour of dropping the commitment to leave the EEC, and Mr Heffer said that the party had to keep its options open while working constructively.

Perhaps the sharpest exchanges in the debate, which was staged by the Fabian Society, came on the attitude of the candidates to the Militant Tendency expulsions.

Mr Hattersley said that Militant was incompatible with the Labour Party. Any constituency party which refused to carry out expulsions ordered by the party would have to suffer the consequences laid down by the constitution. Mr Heffer said that sounded "very good" but he was firmly against expulsions.

Mr Kinnock said that Militant had a distinctive and separate set of principles, purposes and propaganda which would be used to pursue democratic centralism in antagonism to democratic socialism.

Right given majority by TUC's new rules

By Our Labour Editor

Left-wing hopes of dominating the TUC General Council look certain to be permanently extinguished by new election rules. The official list of nominations for an enlarged, 51-strong general council, published today, indicate that the centre-right will enjoy a built-in majority with the introduction of automatic seats for larger unions.

Thirty-four of the seats are being distributed among 22 unions which have more than 100,000 members and qualify for automatic representation. In this group, the moderates outnumber militants by 22 votes to 12.

There is intense politicking for the 11 seats available for about 80 smaller unions, with rival left-wing and moderate slates being discreetly circulated because TUC rules forbid direct canvassing.

Some union leaders on the left's slate who have been members to the general council for many years could lose their membership of the labour movement's most exclusive "club" because the patronage of the big battalions, such as the Transport and General Workers' Union have gone.

At risk are Mr Raymond Buckton, of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; Mr James Slater, of the seamen's union; Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, last year's chairman of congress; and the Communist sheet metalworkers' leader Mr George Guy.

However, the left is confident of winning most of these 11 seats against the "St Ermine's Group", so called after the Westminster hotel where it meets.

Six seats will still be reserved for women, directly elected by all unions. Moderates are expected to take at least four, giving them an overall majority of about ten.

Delegates voted last year by 5.6 to 5.3 million to give the system a five-year trial. Repeated efforts by the TGWU to frustrate the change have been defeated in committee and few believe that the decision can be reversed, even though two motions have been tabled for the TUC Congress in September arguing that it ought to be abandoned.

Unemployment 'to stay above 4m in 1980s'

The underlying level of unemployment will remain above 4 million during the rest of the 1980s, according to the Institute for Employment Research.

The Government-funded institute, based at Warwick University, says in its annual Review of the Economy and Employment that job prospects between now and the 1990s will be concentrated in part-time work.

The Review adds that 44 per cent of the work force will be women

Electricians shun 'foregone' vote

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Electricians' union leaders have decided to boycott the Labour Party leadership election on the grounds that it is already a foregone conclusion for Mr Neil Kinnock.

The executive council of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing union (EETPU) voted 6-6 on a motion not to participate in the October 2 electoral college meeting and its president, Mr Tom Breakwell, used his casting vote for the boycott.

The EETPU's 180,000-strong block vote will accordingly be denied to Mr Roy Hattersley, the moderate front-runner, who might have expected the support of the right-wing electricians. The union's vote will be cast in the deputy leadership contest only if it could stop left-winger Mr Michael Meacher winning.

Mr Meacher's chances of denying Mr Hattersley the deputy leadership, have increased substantially through the decision two days ago by

leaders of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) to recommend members to support him. NUPE is also backing Mr Kinnock as leader.

The EETPU executive council meeting was apparently heated, with some members even calling for the union to quit the party. The EETPU did not favour the setting-up of the electoral college, in which the unions have 40 per cent of the votes in determining who shall lead Labour.

An individual ballot of EETPU members at a cost of £105,000 was suggested but Mr Breakwell told The Times last night: "We don't feel we ought to be committed to spending all that money for what is really a fait accompli."

He was deeply critical of Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and other union leaders, who had declared early for Mr Kinnock, thereby ensuring support for him in the Labour movement.

EETPU delegates may attend the electoral college meeting in Brighton, but not to vote. "We would not make any impact", Mr Breakwell added. "We don't agree with the college, so we feel entitled to opt out."

The union will however respond favourably to constituency party requests for funds to conduct local ballots among party members.

Last night Mr Meacher was "cautiously confident" that his candidature would succeed. Of the EETPU move he said: "I don't want to win by default."

Union support, page 2



Michael Meacher: "Cautiously confident"

Cooler weather on the way

By a Staff Reporter

At the end of the hottest July in England and Wales this century meteorologists yesterday forecast cooler temperatures and rain.

But the London Weather Centre predicted that the rain, in the form of showers or thundery outbreaks, would not last much beyond today. Temperatures would however hover in the low 70 degrees F in the South for some days. They would then start to rise again, but not to the dizzy heights of recent weeks, at least not until later in the week.

The cooler weather follows a month which saw 16 days when

the thermometer stood above 80 deg F (27 deg C) in England and Wales. No other July this century has seen such spells of heat, and July 1976 could only run to 10 days over 80 deg F.

In Bristol the local weather centre went further than the century record and maintained that July was the hottest month locally since 1659. The claim was made on the basis of local historical records such as diaries because official records go back only about 60 years.

The bestwax has caused an upsurge in ice cream sales with one of Britain's largest manufacturers saying they sold 760

million portions last month, a demand not experienced since 1976.

On Saturday vehicles flooded into the West Country at a rate of 3,500 per hour, motoring organizations said.

Devon and Cornwall police set up a mobile canteen on the A38 near Saltash and served coffee to drivers arriving on Friday and Saturday morning in an effort to combat the problems of motorists driving overnight without rest. More than 700 cups were handed out. Yesterday the roads were generally quieter throughout Britain as the wet weather began to spread east.

Boos for Sir Peter after 'Ring' cycle



Sir Peter Hall

Bayreuth, West Germany (AFP) - Sir Peter Hall, the British producer, was loudly booed here when he took a bow at the end of the first cycle of the 1983 Wagner's Ring, celebrating the centenary of the composer's death.

Sir Peter's production of Twilight of the Gods went down badly on Saturday night. Mr William Dudley, the British stage designer was also booed when he stepped forward with Sir Peter.

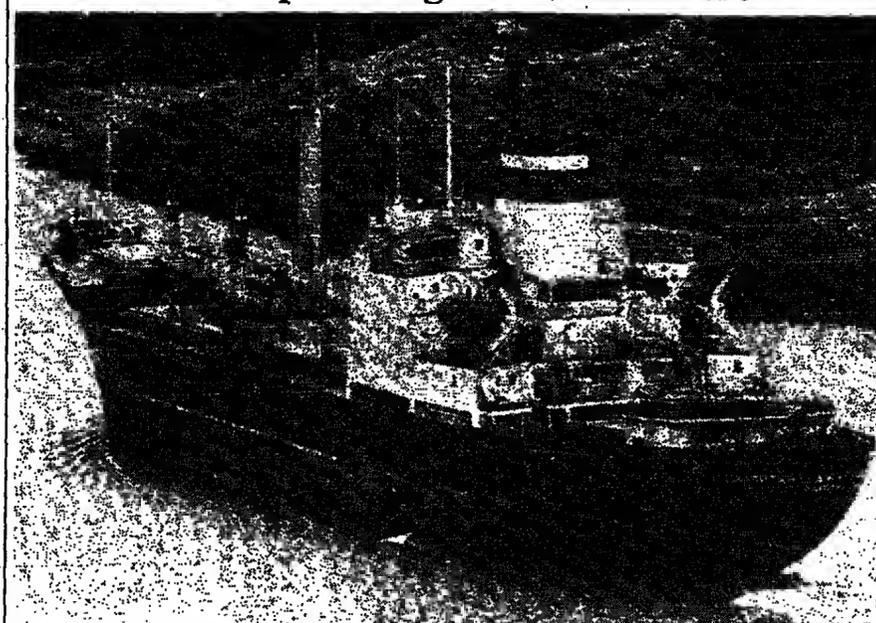
He was accused by some of having devoted so much attention to a £130,000 hydraulic

platform - which in a flash changed scenery from grass to smouldering cinders belching smoke right into the audience - that he neglected the acting.

Sir Georg Solti, the conductor received a better reception after an uneasy start, and he and the soloists were called back by applause for nearly half an hour.

Solti showed mastery of Wagner's complexity, but he was at Bayreuth for the first time and working with unfamiliar musicians from all over West Germany.

Next stop Nicaragua for Soviet vessel



One of the Soviet ships that President Reagan claims is carrying arms to Nicaragua, photographed on the Pacific Ocean side of the Panama Canal. Castro gesture, page 6.

Two riders die in Silverstone crash

By a Staff Reporter

Two riders were killed at the British Motor Cycling Grand Prix at Silverstone yesterday in a crash on the sixth lap. The men who died, Norman Brown, an Ulsterman and Peter Hober, a Swiss, were well down the field when the accident happened, about 10 minutes after the race began. Brown was killed instantly. Hober was flown to hospital in Oxford by helicopter but was pronounced dead soon after admission.

After the crash, racing continued for two laps of the 2.92-mile track, although Brown and Hober lay amid the wreckage of their motor cycles in the middle of the track at the Stowe Corner.

It was only after the riders themselves slowed down or stopped racing that the red flag, stopping the race, appeared.

Marshals at the site of the crash took it upon themselves to cross the yellow and black danger flags, but it was not until two laps later that instructions to stop the race came from the head marshals.

Kenny Roberts, who won the Grand Prix, angrily shook his fist at the starting line marshals as he passed them on the seventh lap. Moments later the race was stopped. "It was dangerous, they were slow. It should not be like that," he said.

Randy Mamola, one of the race leaders, said he and the others at the front of the race passed the crash three times before the red flag appeared. "It should have been stopped directly for the ambulance to get to them and they could get the best treatment."

Mr Vernon Cooper, the Auto-Cycle Union spokesman insisted: "The race was stopped as soon as possible." There was no explanation as to why it took two laps.

Race report, page 18

Killings continue despite curfew in Sri Lanka

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Burnings and killings continued in Sri Lanka, over the weekend, despite a curfew lasting almost 60 hours all over the island.

The trouble spread on Saturday to Nuwara Eliya, the heart of the plantation area in the central massif, where the forest Ceylon tea came from. According to Mr Douglas Liyanaage, Secretary of the Ministry of State, who is the Government's spokesman, the disturbances there were "not minor".

"There have been a few deaths," he said, "particularly in Nuwara Eliya". But Mr Liyanaage said that in general the number of incidents of communal violence had decreased.

According to the official Government count, 179 civilians had been killed by other civilians since the trouble started last weekend, until Friday evening. Of these 89 occurred in Greater Colombo and 90 in the rest of the country. They include 53 Tamil prisoners slaughtered in prison in the capital. In the previous worst intercommunal riots, in 1958, 159 people were officially said to have died.

A number of looters and arsonists shot by the security forces may be added to the total, so far. No full figures were available yesterday.

There were further incidents of violence against Tamils and their property in Chilaw.

Matale, Kalutara and Deniyaya, also on Saturday. The Government insists however that there is no trouble in the north of the country, which is predominantly Tamil.

The spokesman said that Sinhalese people there were going south as a matter of prudent security, but there had been no violence, no injury and no damage to property.

Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former Sri Lankan Prime Minister, accused the Government of trying to find scapegoats for the violence in urban or left-wing parties and allegations of a foreign-inspired plot.

There was on the other hand a mass exodus of Tamils displaced from their homes in Colombo yesterday. Thirty busloads of refugees were taken from a camp and embarked on a ship bound for the north.

The President has banned three political parties under the emergency regulations. The three, all left-wing, were accused of having committed or being likely to commit actions "prejudicial to public safety, to law and order and to the maintenance of essential services".

They are the Janata Vimukti Pearamuna, or People's Liberation Front, the Nava Sama Samaj party, or New Equal

Society Party, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

A senior minister went on television to denounce what he described as foreign elements who "plotted the course of actions one by one" during the events of the past week.

Dr Anandausaha de Alwis, the Minister of State, said that though riots took place in widely different parts of the city and suburbs there was a distinct method to each case. "Whenever it happened, it happened in exactly the same way. This was the pattern."

Government spokesmen declined to go any further towards defining which foreign elements were to be blamed yesterday but Dr de Alwis gave a further clue in the Sinhala version of his address. He said: "I can say that it is a powerful country."

The indicators from this hint, and from the fact that the Communist Party was among the parties banned seem plainly to indicate however that the government is blaming the Soviet Union. The Russians have the largest diplomatic presence in Colombo and support the Communist Party financially by taking paid advertisements in its journal.

About 1,000 Tamils living in Britain marched from a rally in Hyde Park to Downing Street yesterday to protest about the violence in Sri Lanka.

Sixth victim of typhoid confirmed

By Our Staff Reporters

Another case of typhoid among British holidaymakers returning from Greece has been confirmed, taking the total to six. Two more people are suspected to be suffering from the disease.

All eight have recently returned from the holiday island of Kos where they stayed at the Ramira Beach Hotel.

A third holidaymaker who may have typhoid has returned to Britain from Portugal. Until the weekend it was believed that the outbreak was confined to Britons but it is now thought that there is at least one confirmed and two suspected cases, in Sweden, and a suspected victim in Finland.

A Briton has died and 28 others suffered severe stomach disorders last week during a trip to the Soviet Union.

Dr Lawrence Kocoo, from Salford, Greater Manchester, was taken ill at Samarkand in Uzbekistan. By the time the 30-strong party reached Leningrad, he was in a critical condition. He was admitted to hospital on Wednesday and died on Saturday.

American consular officials in Leningrad said yesterday that the return of his body is being delayed so that a post-mortem examination can be carried out. The severe stomach disorders have been attributed to the heat and unhygienic accommodation and toilet facilities.

Meanwhile, the latest case of typhoid was confirmed yesterday by the Seacroft Hospital, in Leeds. The victim is a woman. The two suspected cases, who are at the hospital, are a woman and a small boy, also from the Leeds area.

There are about 350 Britons at the Ramira Beach Hotel. Most are staying put while 11 have asked to be moved.

Advertisement for Vins de Pays wine. Text: 'How long can your low-priced wine keep its good reputation?'. Includes image of wine bottles and a circular logo with 'PRODUCE OF FRANCE VINS DE PAYS'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Labour's organization blamed by local parties for poll defeat

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Neglect in Labour's central organization, rather than its manifesto, seems certain to receive the chief blame for the party's election defeat when the annual conference conducts a full inquest in the autumn. Most of the 60 resolutions analysing the defeat contained in the preliminary agenda for the conference, published yesterday, exonerate the policies, but indict their presentation and the clear disagreements among party leaders over many of them. The general message will come as a blow, though not an unexpected one, to leading figures like Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Peter Shore, who have argued that some of Labour's policies were out of tune with the electorate. May resolutions express the widely-held view of Labour candidates that local campaigns were often ruined by national events. The rift between Mr Michael Foot and Mr Denis Healey on non-nuclear defence policy, and the intervention in that debate of Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, were regarded by many as highly damaging. A resolution from Hull East Labour Party notes "with disgust the actions of certain factions and individuals within the party and the observable lack of unity and spirit exhibited in the national campaign".

The Newark party expresses concern "at the apparent disarray in the party's central and regional administration, in general, and at the disadvantage of this in electoral terms in particular." The General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union has submitted a motion stating that part of the defeat "reflected neglect of party organization, campaigning, ability and political education." Brighton Pavilion declares that "the aim of the Labour Party is to change society and not merely to win elections" and says that the party must seek to convince the electorate of the wisdom of its policies and not to change them to meet what the media proposes as popular public opinion. The right-wing Union of Communication Workers seems to be almost alone in pinning Labour's decline on its policies. Acknowledging the extent of the defeat and the long-term erosion of support among crucial sections of the working-class, the union says it is essential to think again on policy priorities and presentation. A new programme which would be geared to the needs of the late 1980s and beyond is recommended. The dismay of Labour's moderates at the tone of the preliminary agenda will be increased by nearly all of the 41 resolutions tabled on defence - the issue Mr Hattersley has said lost Labour more votes than any other - reaffirm their support for the policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and only one, from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Engineering Section) voices outright disapproval. The AUEW, backing multi-lateral disarmament, opposes unilateralism "as it would leave the United Kingdom naked in a world of ever-increasing nuclear weapons". Some consolation for the moderates will be the unanimity expressed in four resolutions submitted on the EEC that Labour's policy of withdrawal should be modified or suspended and replaced with proposals for reform of the Community from within. The agenda, however, also marks the latest stage of the centre-right's attempt to have the principle of one member, one vote, backed by Mr Hattersley and Mr Shore, applied to the leadership and deputy leadership contest. In a clearly coordinated effort, about 20 resolutions propose ballots in the constituency parties. Five motions call for the reinstatement of the five members of the editorial board of *Militant*, expelled last February.

TUC split on Cabinet boycott

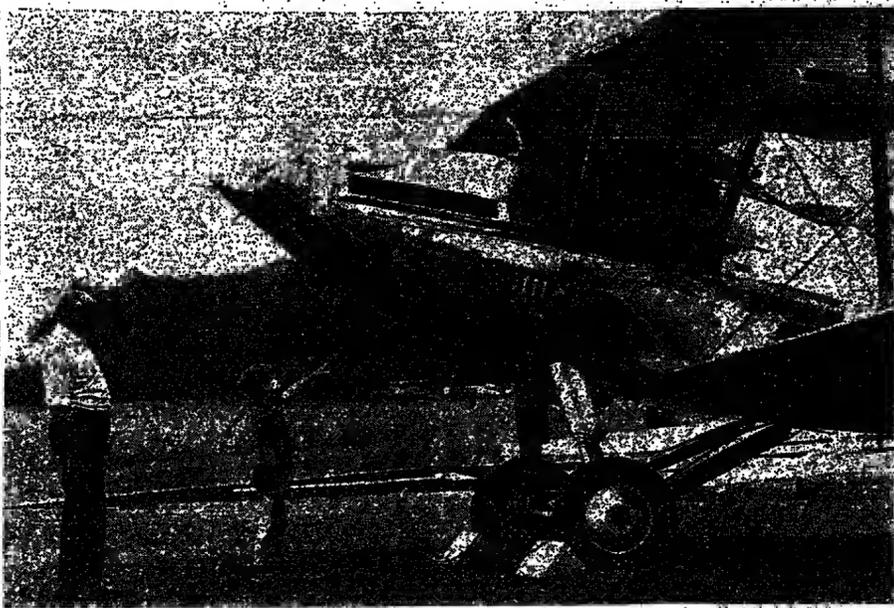
By Paul Rantledge, Labour Editor

A crisis of policy on relations between the labour movement and the Government is clear in the agenda of the TUC conference, published today. Moderate union leaders are urging an increase in contacts with Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet "to maximize the influence of the TUC", but left-wingers want a continuing boycott of talks with ministers on the controversial issue of industrial relations law reform. The TUC's involvement in the National Economic Development Council, ("Neddy"), a tripartite body bringing together unions, employers and government is also under renewed pressure but contradictory influences insist that the unions "cannot ignore the lessons of the 1983 general election". The preliminary agenda of next month's conference in Blackpool is notably less insistent on achieving social and industrial change through the Labour Party than in previous years, though strong links through the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee are emphasized and the Alliance parties are ignored. Among the seven motions calling for opposition to proposals by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, for compulsory secret ballots in union affairs is one from the Technical and Supervisory Section (Tass) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers which asserts: "The mounting legislative attack on trade union rights and democracy demands new levels of solidarity." It adds: "Therefore, Congress asserts that there can be no discussion with the Govern-

ment on the subject of anti-union legislation. The TUC General Council last week voted 14 to 11 to take up an invitation to talks with Mr Tebbit, initially on the issue of the political activities of unions but possibly extending to the topics covered in his recent White Paper. The Tass motion is clearly designed to nip that move in the bud, as Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, has said that no discussions will take place with Mr Tebbit before late September. The National Graphical Association follows up that proposal with an initiative that could take the TUC out of "Neddy". It argues that the Government has consistently ignored the constructive criticisms of the unions and that "such an approach is incompatible with the principles which have, for the past 21 years, underpinned the trade union movement's involvement in the NEDC." It suggests an in-depth review of the value to the labour movement of continuing involvement in the NEDC. Two Civil Service unions are seeking to redirect the TUC from the hard-line strategy of the left. The Institution of Professional Civil Servants invites delegates to reject industrial action for party political purposes. The Civil and Public Services Association recalls the evidence of opinion polls suggesting that only 39 per cent of trade unionists voted Labour in the election and proposes a re-evaluation of strategy on how to prosper in the current anti-trade union environment.

THE UNIONS AND THE LEADERSHIP

| Union | Affiliated votes | Position |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Transport workers | 1,250,000 | Conference declared for Kinrock; no decision on deputy |
| Engineering workers | 850,000 | Executive decision: Kinrock leader, Hattersley deputy |
| General and boilermakers | 720,000 | Consulting branches |
| Public Employees (Naps) | 600,000 | Executive recommends Kinrock-Meacher in branch vote |
| Shopworkers | 418,000 | Kinrock for leader |
| Mineworkers | 236,000 | Branch vote: Kinrock certain, Meacher likely |
| Construction workers | 200,000 | Delegation to decide; Kinrock likely |
| Postal workers (UCW) | 194,000 | Executive declared for Kinrock |
| Electricians | 180,000 | Executive decision not to participate in poll |
| Railwaymen | 170,000 | Conference decision for Kinrock |
| Scientific and Technical (ASTMS) | 147,000 | Executive for Kinrock; branch consultation |
| Health workers (Cohese) | 135,000 | Branch consultation, no recommendation |



Flight of fancy: Colin Dyer, aged seven, from Thurston, Suffolk, and his grandfather, Mr Jim Howard, admiring a Hawker Hind given by the Royal Air Force in the early 1970s to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The aircraft, which was brought overland to England and took seven years to restore, was part of yesterday's Military Air Pageant at Old Warden. The pageant covered 70 years of aviation, from the Boxkite to the Sea Harrier of Falklands fame. The attractions included a Hurricane, and the only airworthy Mosquito. (Photograph: John Voos).

Protest fast for Welsh language

From Tim Jones Llangefni

Members of the Welsh Language Society will start a week-long fast on the National Eisteddfod field at Llangefni, Gwynedd, today as part of a campaign for an official body to oversee the universal teaching of the Welsh language. The fast, to be followed by a 280-mile march to Cardiff, is tolerated but not welcomed by the organizers of the festival. The society has succeeded for years in frustrating Eisteddfod officials by diverting attention away from the event's essential cultural and literary purpose. The latest demonstration comes after warnings by the festival's ruling body that it will clamp down on activities that seem hostile to Wales's annual cultural showpiece. Mr Wyn Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, was heckled by about 40 society members when he opened a mobile theatre on Saturday. He said: "I welcome all opinions and suggestions but it is fair that I should expect constructive ideas and tolerant respect for all views." He rejected any element of compulsion in the promotion of the Welsh language and said all concerned with its future should dedicate themselves to the task in hand and not protest vociferously, expecting others to undertake the practical work necessary to realize Welsh language aims and ambitions. "That is the only way to promote the language and keep the good will necessary to ensure its survival," he said.

Liberal leader's health Friends say Steel is improving

By Our Political Reporter

Mr David Steel, the leader, has been suffering from severe depression brought on by a viral infection apparently picked up during the last week of the general election campaign. But, according to Mr Steel's close friends, the worst is past, he has been feeling much better recently and intends to return to active politics during the Liberal Assembly next month, making his keynote speech on September 24. The fresh insight on Mr Steel's decision in July to take a break from the leadership of his party came at the weekend after he received the results of medical tests carried out in London last week. Mr Steel has been told by his doctors that the virus usually lasts about two-and-a-half months and can be treated only by rest. Although he went to Penrith three times during the by-election campaign, Mr Steel has been taking it easy. His illness began early in June when he caught influenza. He struggled on through the campaign's last week, but Dr David Owen, "speaking as a doctor", was one of many associates who told him he should be in bed. Then he apparently contracted the viral infection which made him constantly feel tired and depressed. It also heightened the disenchantment he was feeling at the continued criticism from elements within his party over his style of leadership, which some have labelled "autocratic", and at opposition by some of them to the party's relationship with the Social Democrats. His irritation on those issues will clearly not end with his recovery, but the result at Penrith, which has been seen as further vindication for Mr Steel's concept of the closest possible working relationship between the two parties, will have come as a tonic. So too will be the early results from the questionnaires sent to all Liberal associations after the election asking them their views on the performance of the

Alliance and whether it should continue. More than 200 have been returned and only a tiny minority, it was disclosed yesterday, urged that the Alliance should end. There has also been backing from many associations for the broad idea of a merger between the two parties. Mr Steel has joined a distinguished list of present and past parliamentarians who suffer, or have suffered, from a disorder of mood grave enough to be described by their doctors as a disease, depression (Our Medical Correspondent writes). Manic depressive psychosis is common among those proving themselves in public life, in susceptible people its symptoms can be precipitated by a variety of causes, among which viral infections are notorious. The symptoms, which Mr Steel has reported should, if there are no underlying causes, respond rapidly to treatment with the appropriate drugs, but may recur if circumstances repeat themselves.

FT talks continue as union suspension nears

By Our Labour Editor

Informal contacts aimed at resuming peace talks at the Financial Times took place yesterday as the TUC prepared to suspend the National Graphical Association for rejecting a mediator's award. Further efforts are planned today, with a view to bringing the newspapers management and leaders of the NGA back into bilateral talks before the union's national council takes the step of defying formal "advice" to abide by a peace formula personally under-

written by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC. The parties to the discussions declined to comment, but it was felt that talks on the deadlock must begin before the NGA leaders meet in emergency session on Wednesday. If they reject the TUC's advice, the union will be called before a special meeting of the general council on Thursday to be formally suspended. Other unions could then be asked by the TUC to produce the newspaper without the NGA.

Heineken cannot reach pubs others can refresh

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

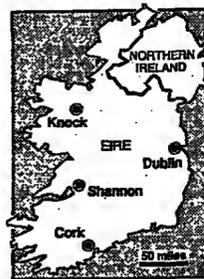
The lager advertised as refreshing the parts other beers cannot reach is no longer getting to some managed public houses in the South-east owned by Whitbread. The brewery produces Heineken, the Dutch lager, under licence. With the hot summer pushing sales of lagers up by a third or more, draught Heineken has gone on ration. Whitbread's tenanted public houses and the free trade clubs can get sufficient supplies while some managed houses have been told to stop ordering. There are some 500 Whitbread managed public houses in the South-east, although not all are affected. Mr Stewart Lewis, Whitbread's marketing director, said: "Unless peak heatwave conditions come back we should be resuming supplies in about two weeks." Heineken is among the top three best-selling lagers in Britain. With beer demand up by a

fifth in the South of England during July, all breweries have been pushed, but the Brewers' Society said there have been no shortages except where individual houses may have under-ordered. But Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, said that although its Northampton brewery was able to supply regular customers it might not be able to meet all the demand coming from other sources. Whitbread has been reducing production capacity over the past few years, but this is not at the root of the Heineken shortage, it claims. While Heineken is on ration other lagers produced by Whitbread are on offer, labelled for the occasion the "Heatwave" brand. These can be produced in as little as two weeks while Heineken, in common with other quality lagers, takes longer. Hence the temporary shortage, Whitbread says.

Irish cleric's dream for airport stalls

By Richard Ford

On a boggy plateau 650ft above the sea, the second Miracle of Knock is approaching a crucial period in its development. Hailed as the finest achievement of a West of Ireland cleric, portrayed as a typical Irish story but dismissed as "Knock nonsense" by its critics, the 6,000ft asphalt runway of the republic's fourth international airport is near completion. The project has swallowed almost IR£9m of government money which has been channelled into a private company headed by Monsignor James Horan, the astute parish priest of Knock, population 500. Soon the Government of Dr Garret FitzGerald, will have to decide whether a minimum of IR£4m or maximum IR£8m would be given to complete the grandly-titled Connacht regional airport. The money is needed to construct a terminal building and provide air traffic control, lighting, security and customs facilities so that the airport a few miles from the Marian Shrine at Knock in Mayo can open in 1985. The indications are that no more public money will be poured into the plan and that the promoters will be asked to find private capital willing to risk investing in a project which the chief executive of Aer Rianta, which runs Ireland's three other international airports, has said is not a realistic financial proposition. But Mr Horan, who first persuaded Mr Charles Haughey, when he was prime minister, to support the idea says: "We will get our money. They will give it to us as you cannot leave a project like this half finished." The site is a few miles from the shrine where in 1879 it is claimed there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary. Mr Horan believes the village can become as popular as Lourdes as a pilgrimage for the faithful and that an airport near by will help their progress. He has cleverly played the "deprived West card" and believes the airport will attract industry and more tourists to one of the republic's most beautiful, but poverty stricken, areas. He says 150 acres of the 520-acre site have been kept for industrial use. He wants the airport to include peat fires and windmills with only nine full-time staff assisted by part-time workers supplementing their modest farm incomes. Unions may end that idea and airline companies are certain to be alarmed at his proposal that tractors instead of tow trucks will pull aircraft from the apron to the runway. He estimates Knock can break even with 50,000 passengers a year although others are sceptical, pointing out that Aer Lingus, the state airline, is not interested in flying there and that Cork with 350,000 passengers annually operates at a loss. Mr Horan is managing director of a company which put up IR£100 for the project.



Priests seek inquiry into shooting

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

Five priests called yesterday for an independent inquiry into the death of a Roman Catholic youth, the sixth unarmed person to be killed in co Armagh by security forces since last November. The priests, from Armagh, said a grave responsibility rested with Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and that they had no confidence in an inquiry by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) into the death of Martin Malone, aged 18. The police set up a squad to investigate the death of Mr Malone, who died when a shot into his chest early on Saturday morning. His death brings to 11 the number of civilians shot by members of the security forces in incidents which have aroused controversy in the past eight months. Seven unarmed civilians have been shot by the RUC or UDR in co Armagh in the past 18 months. There has been growing concern among priests and nationalist politicians that the security forces are operating a "shoot-to-kill" policy. The Government of the Irish Republic is likely to introduce a Bill before the end of the year to abolish capital punishment. The death penalty is permitted for certain "murders". The national director of the YMCA in Ireland has resigned after admitting taking part in a homosexual act with an Algerian teacher in a cinema in Soho, London. Mr William Hartie, aged 42, from Newcastle co Down, was fined £25 by Marlborough Street magistrates last Thursday.

Motor cycle cooperative to be wound up

From Our Correspondent Coventry

A liquidator is being called in by the Triumph motor-cycle workers' cooperative near Coventry to wind-up the eight-year-old company. The 130 workers who have been laid off for months will attend a meeting on Friday. Mr John Rosmond, chairman, said he was still convinced the cooperative had a future if immediate cash was found. New models could be introduced and a smaller factory could be used.

Last edition

Yesterday's edition of Scotland's *Sunday Standard* was the last available - no effective arrangements could be made to continue publishing.

Rider killed

Dr Patricia Grant, aged 30, of Fintry, Stirlingshire, died in hospital on Saturday after being thrown as she competed in the Annick Horse Trials at Irvine, in Ayrshire.

Hunting ban

Staffordshire County Council is to ban hunting on its land. The chairman of the county farms committee, Mr Eric Roberts, described hunting as barbaric.

Publicity drive 'needed for Telecom sale'

By Bill Johnstone Electronics Correspondent

The Government is convinced that a big advertising and publicity campaign, possibly on television, radio and in newspapers, will be necessary to launch successfully the sale of shares in British Telecom to telephone subscribers. The conclusion comes after a preliminary study by government researchers, who believe that telephone subscribers will be encouraged to invest only if they can reclaim their stake easily, and benefit from a discount or bonus by holding the shares. There are more than 18 million domestic telephone subscribers in the UK and 4 million business customers. British Telecom has more than £10,000m in assets and it is the Government's intention to sell 51 per cent of it to the private sector from autumn next year. The Treasury favours the sale of some shares to subscribers but British Telecom is not keen on providing incentives such as discounts.

Overseas selling prices

Overseas selling prices: America 22.25; Canada 22.00; Hong Kong 22.00; Japan 22.00; New Zealand 22.00; Singapore 22.00; South Africa 22.00; Switzerland 22.00; Taiwan 22.00; Thailand 22.00; West Germany 22.00; Yugoslavia 22.00. (All prices are in pence per pound sterling.)

Lloyds Bank Results

First six months of 1983

After provisions of £120m for bad and doubtful debts, Group profit before tax in the first six months of 1983 was £194m. This is an increase of 61% compared with the second half of 1982, but a fall of 4% compared with the first half.

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The interim dividend is up 7% to 10.66p per share.

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Resorts feel the pinch as holidaymakers desert Britain despite heatwave

By David Hewson

The tourist boom promised by Britain's midsummer heatwave has failed to arrive in most parts of the country.

Even with temperatures at British resorts higher than those at some of their competitors in the Mediterranean, many Britons are continuing to buy foreign package holidays in preference to domestic ones.

The package holiday industry which had been expecting its market to fall slightly this year now believes that it will grow by about 2 per cent in a state of late bookings. According to the British Market Research Bureau Spain, Portugal and France are particularly popular, with Greece, where bookings have fallen 10 per cent, the only blackspot.

In marked contrast, at home some hoteliers have started to offer heavy discounts on weekend breaks during the next few weeks, and many have criticized claims by the English Tourist Board that the domestic holiday industry is heading for a boom year.

Mr Ian Bell, chairman of the board of management of the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers' Association, and a hotelier in Dyfed, said: "The claims are completely untrue, certainly in Wales, and it would seem, in most parts of the United Kingdom, with the exception of London. "We are nicely full at the moment but there is a lot of space in August. Generally, business overall is not as good as last year."

Mrs M. B. Millican, a Buxton hotelier and chairman of the association's northern division,

said the big resorts like Blackpool and Morecambe were benefiting from the good weather, but smaller seaside towns and inland resorts were less well off.

"Advance bookings are certainly not heavy, and while they may pick up if the good weather continues, talk of a boom this year is premature."

In Torquay, Mr Jonathan Hassel, chairman of the association's South-west division, said "the weather had brought extra visitors to Devon and Cornwall but not in great numbers. The upturn has given us a degree of confidence that the situation will be better than it appeared earlier in the summer."

One bright spot has been the return of large numbers of big-spending United States holidaymakers to popular tourist areas.

Mr Osmond Edwards, director of the Feathers Hotel at Ludlow, Shropshire, a popular area with visitors from the United States because of the region's Shakespearean connections, said: "Americans have been tending to give Britain a miss in recent times, but thankfully they are now returning in large numbers, largely because of the favourable exchange rates."

But other areas, notably Wales and the South Coast, which were popular with French tourists, have seen their Gallie trade virtually wiped out by the Government's foreign exchange controls.

The disappointing business has led to the extension into the summer months of bargain-break holidays, which were once

only available during the winter.

Superbreak Mini Holidays, which used to be part of British Rail before it was privatized, in a "management buy-out," has reported a "tremendous surge."

Mr Christopher Dunn, the company's joint managing director, added, however: "Let no one be under the illusion that there will be no space available in the next few weeks, even in cities such as London, where the demand is certainly high."

One factor behind the continuing popularity of the Mediterranean package holiday market is undoubtedly the relative strength of sterling against most of the region's currencies.

The most obvious example of the way that holidaymakers head for countries with weak currencies has been in Portugal. The country had feared a poor summer after a spate of bad publicity about faulty gas heaters in the Algarve. Since devaluation by 18 per cent earlier this year, a move which, according to Thomas Cook, the travel organization, makes it the cheapest holiday destination in Europe, the country has experienced a continued surge in British bookings.

Admissions to historic buildings and monuments in England fell by 1 per cent from 1981 to 1982, the English Tourist Board said yesterday. Visits to gardens rose by 9 per cent, with Kew Gardens benefiting from the publicity of the Queen's reopening of the Temperate House, attracting an extra 180,000 visitors.

Woman is top in battle training

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

A woman has come top of a course training young army officers in battlefield skills such as laying minefields, erecting bridges across rivers and demolition work.

After taking some leave she will be posted to Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire to become the second woman to command a troop of 35 to 40 men of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Later this year the squadron of which her troop is part will go to the Falkland Islands and she assumes she will go with them.

She is Lieutenant Jan Harper, aged 25, from Northampton. The course she had completed lasts seven months and is for young officers at the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatterden Barracks, near Rochester, Kent.

She was the only woman among 21 officers on the course which provides training in the technical and command skills needed to lead a troop of Royal Engineers.

Men come to the course after about seven months at Sandhurst; Lieutenant Harper had only nine weeks' basic training with the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) at Camberley, Surrey, and a short posting in West Germany. She nevertheless has considerable military experience, having been a member of the Officer Training Corps while at Leeds University and a member of the Territorial Army. She had technical knowledge being the only member of the course who was a graduate civil engineer.

She is a considerable athlete, having represented the WRAC at tennis and hockey, and played hockey alongside men in her regimental team.

She says she had wanted to join the Army when she graduated in 1979 but at that stage the Royal Engineers were not taking women. She worked as a construction



Lieutenant Jan Harper tackling the assault course (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

engineer at Birmingham Airport until she learnt that the Royal Engineers were accepting women.

Technically she was commissioned in the WRAC but she was accepted on the basis that she would be employed permanently with the Royal Engineers.

Although the Royal Engineers employ other WRAC officers, for example as assistant adjutants, Lieutenant Harper is only the second to be recruited on the basis of

permanent employment with the Sappers, the first being Lieutenant Penny Denton who now commands a troop in West Germany.

The Royal Engineers are part of the fighting "teeth" of the Army and are apt to be found in the front-line, so the use of women in command positions is being treated with caution.

The squadron which Lieutenant Harper is joining has the role of supporting the Royal Air Force in repairing airfield damage.

Plea to tourists in hunt for killer of Caroline Hogg

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

Police hunting the killer of Caroline Hogg, aged five, say that tourists sitting on the Promenade at Portobello, Edinburgh, the night she disappeared may have crucial information.

The Assistant Chief Constable of Northumbria, Mr Hector Clark, who is leading the hunt, appealed to everyone who was on the Promenade between 7 pm and 7.15 pm on July 8 to come forward. An estimated 2,000 people were sitting on benches or strolling about, but only a third of them have made statements.

Mr Clark, who said that he now had information that the girl was playing alone in a swing park near her home, asked even those who felt they had no information to come forward.

"About 12 benches are situated in front of the swing park and all of those were occupied. We want to speak to everyone there, whether they saw anything or not."

The swing park is near the funfair, Fun City, where the

child was last seen with an unshaven man. Detectives now believe that she may have been held for several days before her body was dumped near Twycross in Leicestershire.

In the light of that new evidence, wives, mothers and girl friends have been asked to consider any "lost days" involving their men between July 9 and 11.

Today, two Lothian and Borders officers, Det Chief Inspector John Henry and an officer fluent in German, will fly to Dusseldorf, West Germany, to interview Herr Fritz Witte, a schoolteacher, who was in Portobello the night the child was abducted.

Detectives believe that Herr Witte, who was traced last week, is a possible witness.

Tomorrow, Mr Clark will visit the spots where Caroline and Susan Maxwell, aged eleven, were discovered. Susan, who was abducted and murdered last year, was found near Urtotter, Staffordshire. The same man is suspected of both killings.

Sheep-killing Beast of Exmoor still at large

By Craig Seton

The Beast of Exmoor is alive and still killing. Reports that Royal Marines marksmen had fatally wounded the large dog that has slaughtered more than 100 sheep in North Devon and Somerset this year were thought by police to be wishful thinking.

The dog has killed sheep on Exmoor in the past week.

Supt Doug McClary said yesterday: "We still feel we are looking for the same animal, but the operation has been scaled down, because we feel we will have a better chance of identifying it or killing it in the

autumn or winter when the foliage is less dense."

The beast attacks a single sheep, brings it down swiftly and silently, crushes its skull in its jaws and eats large amounts of its flesh.

A cat-like creature, described by the police as a lioness or a puma, is believed to have killed farm animals in the Scottish border hills near Earlsdon. Armed policemen with farmers and gamekeepers searched the area yesterday.



David Niven killed by muscle wasting disease

By Our Medical Correspondent

David Niven died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, one of the motor neurone diseases, a group of disorders where progressive muscle wasting follows degeneration in certain tracts in the brain and spinal cord.

As the disease progresses, distinction between the member of the group and another becomes merely academic, but in the actor's case the muscles involved in chewing, swallowing and talking were affected early and severely so that the disease might be further classified as a duchenne paralysis or progressive bulbar palsy.

Mr Niven was rather older than most patients as when the disease usually starts. It usually strikes at about the age of 50, men being more often affected than women.

As the muscles begin to shrink weakness follows. The patient notices that he is having to drag his legs, his movements are stiff and he is losing the fine movement in the hands and arms; later all the muscles waste so that, as in Mr Niven's case, he was so weak that he had to give up swimming.

When the muscle wastes away, it fasciculates, these are involuntary movements like the twitching of a horse's flanks and can be distressing to sensitive people.

The disease is invariably fatal. When it attacks the spine only some patients may live for 15 to 20 years, but usually there is cortico-spinal involvement too and death normally occurs in under five years.

Actor plans comeback

Mr Peter Adamson said yesterday that he expected to return to his role as Len Fairclough in Coronation Street in September or October.

Mr Adamson, aged 53, made the prediction at a home exhibition in Nottingham, his first public appearance since being cleared of indecently assaulting two girls.

After an enthusiastic reception from crowds as he signed autographs, he said: "I am back

on the pay roll now and I think they expect me to earn my bread and butter."

Granada Television said yesterday it had some contractual matters to discuss with Mr Adamson.

In yesterday's News of the World, Mr Adamson said he had at first wanted to plead guilty to the charges of indecent assault, to spare the alleged victims the ordeal of giving evidence.

BR 'No' on first-class day return

By Our Transport Editor

British Rail is refusing to bring back the first-class day-return fare, despite evidence that passengers are deserting in droves.

The fare was dropped in May in the hope that the 700,000 passengers a year buying them would be forced to switch to ordinary first-class tickets, providing an extra £3m to £4m in revenue. Instead, many passengers have either moved down to second class, or simply gone by car.

The rail user watchdog body, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, said at the weekend: "We have had a very strong reaction from the public over this, in some cases the fare has nearly doubled, and people are just refusing to pay."

Apparently, the move arose in Southern Region which handled over half the total first-class day returns. As about 85 per cent were classed as business travellers, it was thought they would pay the full fare if they had to, but British Rail felt it could not abolish the ticket in one region only, so on May 22 it disappeared from the system. Since then the Western and Scottish regions, concerned about the loss of passengers, have reintroduced forms of first-class day returns.

Microlights upset Whittle jet villages

From Arthur Osman, Lutterworth

More than 40 years ago, villagers in south Leicestershire became the first in the world to hear the shattering noise of Sir Frank Whittle's secret jet engine. He and his team were based at Lutterworth, perfecting its performance.

According to a report in The Times in January, 1944, when news of the jet-propelled aircraft was released from "Midland town", it was said, with some understatement, that there had been complaints about noise from local people.

Today, without wartime restrictions, a new generation of villagers is raising an enormous roar about a midjet offspring of the six, the microlight aircraft. These have been described by critics as having the irritant value of a "flying lawnmower."

On August 16, Harborough district council's planning committee will rule on an application by Leicestershire Microlight Aircraft Club, which has 70 members and 20 aircraft, each of which weighs about 330lb and travels at 35 to 40mph. The club wants to centralize flying in the county, and wants to turn a field at Friesworth into an airstrip.

It was claimed by the club at the weekend that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) welcomed such centralization so that effective checks could be made, and to help to avoid any possible conflict with civil or military aircraft. Villages for several miles around have joined the south Leicestershire action group based at Friesworth in vigorously opposing the plan. They say the airstrip ad-

joins a nature walk on the Fosse Way and list 13 points of objection. These include intrusive noise, poor safety records in the sport, the closeness of homes to the flying area, and the risk of mid-air collision.

Mr Richard Burns, a barrister and secretary of the group, said: "For every person who takes part in this noisy, anti-social sport, there are thousands who live here or come here from the towns to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside."

Mr John Wincott, chairman of the Leicestershire club, accused the action group of scare-mongering in its use of emotive phrases which had no factual basis. In its application, the club had designated "no go" areas to exclude flying under 2,000ft.

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Brittan supports watch scheme extension to help fight crime

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, has pledged support for an extension of neighbourhood watch schemes by police as part of an important development in penal policy.

"I think they have a lot to offer", he told *The Times*. Mr Brittan sees the schemes as part of a series of Home Office moves aimed at involving the public more in combating crime.

The watch schemes are being introduced by several police forces after their success in America. People are organized to work closely with police in alerting them to suspicious behaviour that could result in crime.

There has been so much interest in the schemes that Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has given the go-ahead to introduce them throughout the force from September 1. Pilot schemes are to begin at the same time.

Mr Brittan told *The Times* he also wants to introduce "as far and as fast as we can" consultative committees between police and public on the lines of the one already in action in Brixton which has a crime prevention and race relations role. They will have statutory backing in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, but he is anxious to see committees established before it comes into force.

Though Mr Brittan does not see the new strategy as an alternative to present ways of tackling crime but as a supplement to them, many in the penal system think that, by concentrating on efforts to catch and reform the offender after the crime has been committed, it has largely failed.



Rail replay 86 years on
Sarah Jones, aged six, with a replica of the GWR locomotive No. 3041 at the Madame Tussaud's Railway Exhibition at Windsor and Eton Central Station which re-enacts in original surroundings the arrival at the station of Queen Victoria's guests to celebrate her diamond jubilee in 1897. Yesterday the exhibition played host to Southall Railway Centre GWR Preservation Group. (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Evren takes strong line towards Armenia

From Basil Gardilek

"Turkey will not yield an inch of territory to any country or people", President Kenan Evren said yesterday, reacting to the Armenian terrorist attacks which have claimed the lives of four Turks, six foreigners and five Armenians within a fortnight.

"This land on which we live has been Turkish for a thousand years and will remain so", he said in an address at the central Anatolian town of Nigde.

In a reference to the ten-year-old campaign of attacks by Armenians under the leadership of organizations against Turkish diplomats, missions and offices abroad, in which 37 Turks have been killed, President Evren noted that "we did not start this current war, just as it was not us who had started the war with the Armenians in 1915. But they were against their destiny, frustrated at the end of this war, as was the case then."

He called on those "who brainwash poor Armenian youths with distorted facts and arm them" to abandon their futile hopes; and he called on Armenian youths to see the realities and stop being taken in by the theories of their mentors.

Finally he called on those countries that had tolerated the terrorist acts to start "an effective struggle against terrorism which threatens to become a scourge for the whole world."

He accused the surviving members of suppressed Turkish extremist organizations of having entered into a secret alliance with the Armenian terrorists.

Party banned: The exclusion of Turkey's Social Democracy Party from the general election due on November 6 was almost assured at the weekend as the ruling National Security Council vetoed eight more founders who were nominated to replace 21 others banned last June from leading the party.

Among those banned was Mr Errol Inanc, the party's former chairman. The council had then vetoed 13 other founders, and the party has been unable to meet the legal requirement of at least 30 approved founders under a deadline now set at August 25.

Paris: Mr Yuradjan Garbajan, an Armenian aged 29, has retracted his confession that he planted the bomb that killed seven people and wounded 57 at Orly airport in Paris two weeks ago, his lawyer said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Mr Henri Lefevre said that Mr Garbajan had confessed on July 19, 50 days after the blast, solely to protect the Armenian community and help to obtain the release of 51 suspected Armenian activists rounded up after the attack.

Racketeers lead Australia into a US-style underworld

In the first of two articles on crime in Australia, TONY DUBOUDIN, Melbourne Correspondent, reports the latest findings on organized racketeering.

Two reports within 10 days indicating that crime in Australia has gained the upper hand and that the country is heading towards an American-style underworld have shocked many people.

The first report, by Mr Douglas Meagher, QC, senior counsel assisting the Royal Commission on the Ships Painters and Dockers Union and released in Perth in May, has started a nationwide debate on the merits of establishing a national crime commission on American lines. Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, has already indicated that such a commission would be appointed by next year.

Mr Meagher's report said explicitly that crime was out of control in Australia.

A subsequent report by Mr Xavier Connor, QC, to the Victoria State Government on the advisability of setting up a casino in the state reinforced the Meagher report's conclusions.

It said that there was "a great deal of organized crime in Victoria. Much of it has interstate and overseas links". Mr Connor recommended against establishing a casino and the state Government has accepted his recommendation.

Illegal betting industry in Victoria was worth up to \$A1,000m (£586m) and suggested that illegal bookmakers bribed senior Telecom officials to gain quick access to telephones after police raids and at other times.

He also said that the Totalizator Agency Board (TAB), the state government body which runs legal off-course betting, was used by criminals to launder "hot" money. This was done by opening an account for betting with the TAB and depositing money in it, leaving it there for several months after which records of how the money was gained were destroyed and then destroying the money. It was impossible to tell if the money had been won on races.

The Royal Commission on the Ships Painters and Dockers Union was set up by the federal and state Governments in 1980 and has already cost the Australian taxpayer \$A3m (£1.75m). Last year it exposed Australia's huge tax avoidance and tax evasion industries and the connection between these and certain parts of the painters and dockers union. It has been estimated that tax racketeers were costing the federal Government hundreds of thousands, probably millions, of dollars in lost revenue.

The commission has been given wide powers including the right to vet tax records of individuals and companies. Some of its findings have been kept secret, while further investigations and criminal prosecutions are made.

It is these wide powers and the possibility that a national crime commission would be given even wider-ranging power which has caused concern over civil liberties.

In his report Mr Meagher says that investigations with the royal commission can now identify many of the organizations controlling crime in Australia. At least three of the cash flow in tens of millions of dollars.

The bigger organizations are involved in many types of crime ranging from starting price (SP) bookmaking and pornography to prostitution and drugs.

The report says that close relations have been found to exist between some Australian criminals and the families of some people "high in the Filipino Government". It also says that Hongkong has become the financial centre for a "very large" number of Australian criminal organizations.

Mr Meagher sounded an alarm with regard to the law enforcement agencies where he found that although corruption had not reached epidemic proportions, organized crime had achieved some success. The syndicates took every opportunity to promote corruption and it was only a matter of time before attempts were made to corrupt senior judges.

Tomorrow: The vice industry

Falklands aid defended by Prince

By a Staff Reporter

The Prince of Wales has defended the South Atlantic Fund against criticism that there have been unnecessary delays in paying money to the dependants of Falklands victims.

Prince Charles, the fund's patron, said at the weekend: "Some people may have wondered why it has seemed to take so long for grants to be paid out."

The reason has been that, owing to a wish for a reflective interval on the part of the families, it was decided on a combination of an interim grant to help meet immediate financial needs, followed by a carefully assessed further grant."

The second grant, the Prince said, guaranteed money was distributed fairly and compassionately "to ensure the bereaved are adequately provided for".

The Prince said he was receiving the freedom of Merthyr-Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan, on behalf of the Welsh guards, of which he is colonel.

The fund had received £15m, and 700 grants totalling more than £10m had been paid out. Further grants would be made before the fund was wound up.

The Prince said the remaining money would be shared by charities covering the Services, to support Falklands casualties who had yet to emerge.

Helicopter design 'adds to hazards'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A study for the Royal Navy showed the type of operations when pilots became disoriented frequently occur in low hover. They were: over water by night, 29 per cent; by day 16 per cent; under instrument flight rules; in dust, snow, rain or over water, 12 per cent.

When hovering over water or long grass a pilot may experience a false sensation of moving forward as the rotor downwash creates a rearward moving pattern. Similarly, a false sensation of moving upward may be generated by the downward movement of snow, rain, or entrained water through the rotor disc.

Other difficulties include annoyance, confusion, and occasionally epileptic-like episodes caused by flicker from the rotor blades or from lights seen through the rotor disc.

The distance at which overhead wires are detected depends on their size, the background against which they are located, and the general visual conditions in the atmosphere.

Wire strikes are a big cause of military and agricultural accidents, and active research is being done into providing warning systems to help to sharpen vision.

An investigation of US civilian accidents over 12 years showed that 10 per cent of 280 deaths were caused by fire after impact.

'Unwanted' cauliflowers destroyed

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Agents appointed under EEC farm policy tried to give away more than 8,000 tonnes of cauliflowers last year. But they got rid of only three tonnes for animal feed and 56 tonnes for animal feed.

The rest was ploughed into the ground after their growers had been paid a few pence for each vegetable. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and food has said. Meanwhile, cauliflowers were being sold in shops for more than 30p.

This attempt by the EEC to balance its agricultural books has emerged from Britain's latest official cauliflower statistics. About 280,000 tonnes were grown and sold in Britain last year and about 50,000 tonnes were imported from elsewhere in the Community to meet seasonal shortages.

The figures record that 8,200 tonnes were "withdrawn" under EEC rules. Some foods like butter and grain are bought by official agencies and stored when prices start to fall. Others, like cauliflowers, are withdrawn through purchases at low prices by farm cooperatives.

They try to give the produce away to "approved institutions" like schools, hospitals and prisons, which if they accept, must then sign an agreement not to buy less than their normal supplies of cauliflowers through usual channels.

He is a loquacious man, gaunt with a deep tan as befits anyone who has spent the last nine months lazing on a tropical Indian Ocean island. He is clearly perfectly at ease back in the familiar surroundings of his home town busy with his garage and business, and is talking enthusiastically of setting up an import-export agency to trade with the Seychelles.

Mr Puren, aged 58, was one of six mercenaries caught after Colonel "Mad Mike" Hoare's abortive coup attempt in the Seychelles in November, 1981, and was involved in the planning of it from two years previously.

But he speaks now with some bitterness of Hoare whom he has known since they launched their respective mercenary careers in the Congo in the early 1960s. "They deserve everything that's come to them," he says of Hoare and five others

Special anti-kidnapping courses for detectives

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A national programme of training to handle kidnapping and extortion cases has been introduced for detectives.

Men from the nine regional crime squads in England and Wales have been given courses in specialist surveillance and investigation techniques developed originally by Scotland Yard.

The courses were started last year by Mr John Cass, the national coordinator of the squads, as the number of kidnappings increased.

In 1980, when kidnappings were first noted as a separate offence in criminal statistics, there were 73 cases. Last year there were 102. In many cases the kidnappers was often domestic involving, for example, children of separated parents and did not involve large demands for money.

But there have been several serious abductions and cases where hostages have been held for ransom.

Scotland Yard has developed a CID programme to handle these incidents, laying down guidelines and practices for operations which often require a minimum of 80 to 100 officers. Training in surveillance has been drawn up by the Yard's C-11 branch which specializes in criminal intelligence work.

Details of the training for the regional crime squads are confidential.

Health care premiums 'forced up by workers'

By Bill Johnstone

Premiums for private health care would rise substantially if trade unions abandoned their opposition to such insurance schemes, according to a survey in the magazine *Personnel Management* published today.

When companies have extended insurance schemes to manual workers, premiums have risen Mr Geoffrey White, of Income Data Services, an industrial relations research organization says.

Manual workers suffer poorer health than those on higher incomes, and the novelty of private medicine leads to a spate of claims, the survey found.

The magazine says: "Although union opposition has been found when employers tried to introduce private medical insurance, a much stronger disincentive in recent months has been the escalation of the costs. Premiums have rocketed, in some cases up to 100 per cent more, and employers who may have been considering spreading a company-paid scheme to lower grade employees have been put off. Indeed, the very spread of such schemes to lower grades has in turn helped to increase premiums."

About 1.3 million people are covered by company schemes. The article says: "Even voluntary schemes have experienced some loss of members as premiums escalate."

Chinese pledge to keep up drive against Vietnam

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

China's unbending attitude towards Vietnam over Cambodia has been reaffirmed by Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister. He said here that China would continue to support the anti-Vietnamese resistance in Cambodia until Vietnam withdrew from that country.

He accused Vietnam of creating conditions with political tricks, one of which was the pretence that Vietnam's invasion was because of threats from China.

Vietnam, he said, would not easily give up its position in Cambodia

France takes both bridge titles

From Keith Stanley Wiesbaden

The Netherlands, unseated at that point, lost 1-19 to Israel.

This opened the door to the French who in the final round, had a convincing 15-5 victory over the Netherlands to become worthy winners. The Netherlands took the silver medals winning a split tie with Britain, who took the bronze.

Italy secured the important second place with a 20-minus 2 victory in the final round over Luxembourg and thus edged Norway into third place.

The women's title seemed to rest between the Netherlands and Britain. However, in the penultimate round Britain lost 4-16 to lowly-placed Sweden and even more astonishingly

Computer link to the art market sales

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The service has been prepared by Mr Richard Hsieh, who launched his *Art Sales Index* back in 1970. He has published a volume on picture prices at auction every year since then. He also offers a monthly update service and an investment newsletter, which analyses the material that he painstakingly collects from auction rooms world wide.

In the past his annual volume has proved his best-seller, an irreplaceable tool to dealers, auctioneers, collectors and museums.

With this new computer service he could find himself tapping new clients, notably

Computer link to the art market sales

City institutions. If you already have a computer terminal in your office, paying an annual subscription for access to the Artquest data bank is cheap enough at £275 a year.

Insurance companies would be able to provide updating of insurance valuations in line with the average movement of an artist's prices. Investment companies would be able to suggest that a client looked at Bonita beach scenes (they word *plage*) as well as more conventional investments. Banks could check how dangerous it was to accept a Cezanne as security for a new loan.

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Spain and ex-colony heal breach

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

There was an evident improvement in relations between Spain and its former African colony, Equatorial Guinea, over the weekend, as President Teodoro Oyang Nguema left with a promise of continued Spanish aid and the refinancing of his country's \$45m (£30m) debt to Spain.

In return, Spain got a public commitment from President Oyang Nguema to stand by his agreement to spare the life of Sergeant Venancio Mico, the Equatorial Guinean soldier who sought asylum in the Spanish embassy in Malabo after an unsuccessful coup attempt last May. Sergeant Mico was handed over to the dictator in exchange for a promise that he would not be executed even if sentenced to death.

Both heads of government seemed cheerful and optimistic when they took part in an airport news conference here on Saturday, before the President boarded his aircraft to return home.

The President, who came to power by overthrowing the previous dictator, insisted that he would keep his word regarding the sergeant, but he claimed it would not be easy to do so because the people of Equatorial Guinea wanted to see the convicted plotters shot.

The President apparently acceded to the Spanish Government's condition that further aid will be dependent upon control by a Spanish coordinator based in Equatorial Guinea, in order to cut down on widespread misuse of funds and corruption



Warm welcome: Mr Narasimha Rao (left), India's Foreign Minister, embracing Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, his Pakistani counterpart, on his arrival in Delhi for regional cooperation talks.

Durban fetes soldier of fortune

From Ray Kennedy, Durban

As she passes through the lobby of the Royal Hotel, the Lady Mayor of Durban bestows benediction. Jerry Puren, mercenary, casually acknowledges her greeting. Durban is a small town, he says, and everybody knows everybody else.

A few minutes later as he crosses the street outside the body calls out: "Welcome back". Mr Puren, until just over a week ago a prisoner of President Albert René of the Seychelles and ostensibly under sentence of death, smiles like a campaigning politician - he has, in fact, stood for office as a provincial councillor but is now suspended from the United Party. "Thank you. Thank you very much," says Mr Puren. At least 12 of the 47-strong group were too drunk to be effective when their arms were discovered and the fighting started.

It was at the nightclub at Ermelo, says Mr Puren, that the mercenaries were told they would be smuggling their weapons in with them instead of being issued with them in the Seychelles.

One man pulled out but Mr Puren says, he decided to carry on because "you have a stigma if you pull out. You've got to go."

Mr Puren is enigmatic about the financing of the raid. "The thought came via Mike (Hoare) from Horeau (Cezard) Horeau, former Seychelles Minister of Information under ousted President James Mancham) to destabilize the Seychelles," he says.

But he claims that it was only on the flight from Swaziland to Port Victoria that Hoare told him the financial backers in London - whom he will not name - were putting up "only \$300,000" not the \$5,500,000 spoken of earlier.

Each of the 47 "Froth Blowers" was paid \$1,000 as a signing-on fee, and promised \$10,000 "as soon as its over". With the cost of the flight, hotel reservations and transport, the coup was leading for a \$600,000 bill.

"Mike said the balance would come from the treasury when we'd taken over the Seychelles. But the Treasury in a country like that is never very full and Mike knew it. He'd busted enough banks in the Congo."

Mr Puren surrendered 17 days after the main party of "froth blowers" were taken over the hijacked Boeing to face trial for treason and imprisonment with the five other captives.

Now, he says, he is finished with the mercenary life.

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Israel ready to pull out of Chouf area under eyes of US military

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israeli troops are expected to begin their withdrawal from the Chouf mountains above Beirut this week, closely monitored by American diplomats and senior United States military officers.

Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's new Middle East envoy, is likely to stay in Beirut during the first stages of the withdrawal.

General John Vesey, chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Lebanon on Saturday and spent much of his time discussing the deployment of the Lebanese Army - supported by troops of the multinational force - in the Chouf after the Israeli withdrawal.

Mr Fadi Frem, commander of the Phalange Militia, said in an interview at the weekend that he was prepared to "end military appearances" in the mountains, where his militia has been fighting the Druze gunmen of Mr Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party.

Speaking to the magazine, *Monday Morning*, Mr Frem implied that the Phalange would offer no resistance to Lebanese troops; but it is the Druze who have refused to disarm after an Israeli withdrawal. The Christian militia is relying on the Lebanese army to prevent any further Druze attacks northwards from the Chouf.

Mr Frem also insisted that

the dispute with the Israeli army last week over the closure of a Phalangist barracks in southern Lebanon "will not alter the core of the relationship" between the two forces.

In southern Lebanon, Israel was implementing "a policy solely dictated from its interests" which, he claimed, did not conflict with the interests of his militia. He still hoped one day to see a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel.

Nevertheless, Mr Frem knows that the barracks which the Israelis want to close - Kfar Falous south of the Awali river - is a strategic point in the military supply line by which the Phalangists receive weapons and ammunition from Israel for their battles against the Druze further north in the Chouf.

They want to know - although Mr Frem diplomatically failed to mention this - why the Israelis have not placed similar restrictions on the Druze militia.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan said in an interview broadcast on Saturday that he believes Israel's planned partial withdrawal from Lebanon will help the US persuade Syria to pull out its troops. (Reuter reports).

He told the McLaughlin Group television public affairs panel "Yes, they (the Israelis) are still there. But they're starting to move. We, with

other Arab allies, can lean on Syria and say 'Come on now, what's your excuse?'"

Israel, planning a partial pull-back to secure positions, agreed earlier this year to withdraw totally from Lebanon if Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization pulled out.

TUNIS: Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, appealed to Arab heads of state for urgent intervention to stop the killing of Palestinians (Reuter reports).

In a weekend appeal issued by the Palestinian agency, Wafa, and reported by the Tunisian agency, TAP, he denounced the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces in occupied areas and "Syrian-Libyan attacks" against Palestinian guerrilla positions in north Lebanon and the Bekaa valley.

"What is happening now is only a prelude to a new massacre like that of Tel Zaatar, 1976 of a Palestinian refugee camp near Beirut.

RIYADH: King Hussein of Jordan arrived yesterday at the Saudi royal family's summer residence at Taif for an official visit (Reuter reports).

The Qatar news agency in Amman said the visit was part of a tour which would also take the king to Iraq and other Gulf capitals.

Anarchy the aim, page 10



Papal security: A nun having her bag checked at Castelgandolfo, the Pope's summer retreat.

Angola cracks down hard on security

Lisbon (Reuter) - Angola has introduced a tough new internal defence law to combat constant and widespread Unita guerrilla attacks, the Angop news agency said yesterday.

The law gives Mr Dos Santos, who was granted emergency powers last December, even

greater control over the country, deciding which areas need the military councils and what their powers should be.

The Councils will be able to restrict movement, organize transport of supplies and requisition food or other essentials.

Angop quoted from the text of the law, which said the measures were necessary because imperialism refused to recognize its defeat in Angola. "Every day it perpetrates acts

of aggression, vandalism and banditry against the territory and civilian population, spreading death, destruction and suffering, while working for Pretoria's racist regime, mercenaries and other gangs of killers."

Last week 50 people were killed and 210 injured when a passenger train hit a land mine occupied the whole area, but went on missions under the protection of South Africa, which controlled part of Cunene province, in the south.

Mr Paulo Jorge, the Foreign Minister, said in an interview carried by Angop that the attacks did not mean Unita occupied the whole area, but went on missions under the protection of South Africa, which controlled part of Cunene province, in the south.

communicating claiming the capture of a town or the defeat and killing of government troops, largely along vital Benguela railway.

Reforms to Hongkong 'parliament' welcomed

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

Chinese and expatriate members of Hongkong's Legislative Council have applauded last week's radical changes and reforms in constitutional procedures.

After nine months of study, under Governor Sir Edward Youde's instructions, procedures will be streamlined and the Council's discussions will be more open to the public.

The constitutional changes coincide with the discussions between Peking and London on the future of Hongkong after 1997. They are likely to strengthen Hongkong's insistence on local autonomy and persistence with non-Marxist "hard life, trade, liberty and the pursuit of capitalism".

A senior member of the Council, Mr Roger Lubbock, confirmed that nominated members had been consulted and had contributed to the changes in the constitution.

The Chinese and English-language press both front-paged the reforms.

BEIJING: Plans eventually to include Hongkong in a huge economic zone to extend over much of south China are aimed at strengthening economic links and co-operation between Guangdong province and Hongkong and Macao, and not at banning the capitalist system in the territory, according to a senior Chinese official (Reuter reports).

Israel lifts curfew on Arabs in Hebron

From Christopher Walker, Hebron

The curfew on the 70,000 Arab inhabitants of Hebron was lifted yesterday. However the Israeli army has maintained control of the central bus station, a large and commercially important area which has been claimed as Jewish property by Israeli settlers.

The strict curfew had been in effect since the shooting last Tuesday of three Palestinian students and the wounding of 35 others. Although the attack is generally believed to have been the work of settlers, no restrictions at all were imposed on the 4,500 Jews living in the Hebron area.

The Israeli government has come under increasing criticism for the reluctance of some of its officials to acknowledge that Jews may have carried out the

attack and for the lack of success in finding the culprits in recent anti-Arab violence.

Mr Yossi Sarid, a prominent Labour deputy, claimed that Shin Bet, the internal intelligence service - the equivalent of MI5 - had either "collapsed" or was being prevented by the government from investigating attacks on West Bank Arabs.

The continuing Israeli hold on Hebron's bus station - now transformed into a military camp - began after the murder of a Jewish religious student on July 7 at a spot some 300 yards from the confiscated zone. The High Court in Jerusalem has issued a temporary injunction preventing the Israelis from demolishing any buildings in the bus station.

UN agency takes over drought aid

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

To speed up relief for drought victims in northern Ethiopia, the UN Disaster Relief Organization, has agreed to an American request that it assume operational responsibilities there.

The urgent request came from Mr Peter McPhearson, the US international aid administrator. Washington wanted a guarantee that funds were being monitored and were not in risk of being misused.

UN supervision is expected to be a decisive factor in President Reagan's decision on a request from 50 Congressmen for a special \$5m (£3.25m) cash grant for Ethiopian drought relief.

Mr Hans Einhaus, the UN organization's director, believes that the announcement of a US contribution would encourage other governments to be more liberal. Since Mr Dawit Wolde Giorgis, the Ethiopian relief commissioner, expressed dismay at what he regarded as the poor response to an emergency appeal, several countries have come forward with donations.

Warning by Ustinov on Nato arms

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, has warned the West that Russia feels "duty bound" to respond to "the growing nuclear threat" from Nato in Europe.

In a lengthy interview published yesterday in *Pravda* and in *Red Star*, the armed forces newspaper, Marshal Ustinov denied that the Soviet Union's military might was greater than that of the United States.

The tone of the interview was conciliatory, and suggested that the Soviet Union was being forced into a reluctant response to the planned deployment of new American missiles by the end of the year.

Marshal Ustinov did not spell out the counter-measures Moscow had in mind, but said they would directly threaten America and Western Europe in the same way that the new Nato missiles would threaten Russia.

He poured scorn on the Reagan Administration's claim that Moscow had embarked on a policy of "super-arms", and said that Mr Reagan's predecessors had acknowledged the "rough equality of forces between east and west".

Soviet party celebrates 80 Communist years

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party celebrated its eightieth anniversary at the weekend, without dwelling on the fact that it was born in a Brussels warehouse and a meeting hall in Tottenham Court Road, London.

The Soviet press yesterday reported that nearly 1,000 party veterans had written to President Yuri Andropov to congratulate him on his leadership of the organization founded by Lenin in the hot summer of 1913.

Tass noted there were now just over 18 million party members, more than half of them workers or peasants. An increasing number were from technical or professional backgrounds, however, and women accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the membership, against 20 per cent in 1960.

The press did not point out that women occupy few senior positions, or that the party is still run by a small, tightly knit group of professionals in the Leninist tradition of central control.

The 1903 congress of the outlawed Russian Social Democratic Party, which began in

Brussels and moved to London under police pressure, split into two factions over Lenin's demand that the party should be conspiratorial and dictatorial in order to win power in Russia.

At a weekend Kremlin meeting marking the emergence of Lenin's Bolshevik ("majority") faction 80 years ago, a member of the present Central Committee said Lenin had rightly advocated the "dictatorship of the proletariat", unlike Western social democrats.

Mr Mikhail Zimyanin said Soviet Marxism offered an example for Third World nations to follow, and could be applied to the industrial West even though it had first taken hold in "backward Russia".

Mr Zimyanin said that under President Andropov the Communist Party had made "great strides in understanding the long-term tasks which face us".

Mr Andropov did not attend the meeting one day, but afterwards met some of the foreign Communist leaders who were present, including Mr Le Duan, the Vietnamese party leader.

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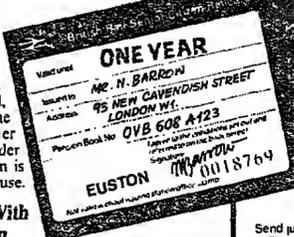
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Reagan may take more flexible approach after gesture by Castro

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration, faced with a hostile House and growing doubts about the impact of United States-backed guerrillas in Nicaragua, is showing distinct signs of flexibility in its Central America policy.

President Reagan was especially receptive to a conciliatory interview given in Havana by Mr Fidel Castro and broadcast by United States television networks. The Cuban leader said he was willing to support an agreement by all countries in the area which barred armed shipments from one state to another and required the withdrawal from Central America of all foreign advisers.

Mr Reagan greeted the highly visible - and uncharacteristic - gesture by giving Mr Castro "the benefit of the doubt in any negotiations and so forth." He felt there was a new openness to negotiations on Cuba's part and that resulted from the United States show of (military) strength in the region.

He added: "We will take the lead and we have said: 'Yes, we would like a negotiated settlement and a peace.' If he is really serious about this, I think it's fine."

The tone of the response does not, Administration officials insist, indicate a willingness by Mr Reagan to meet Mr Castro. He feels that the Organization of American States - long denounced by Mr Castro as a tool of the United States - is the best forum.

There is only lukewarm support, it seems, for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group made up of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. Even so, that avenue is being kept open: in two weeks Mr Reagan will meet its principal proponent, President de la Madrid of Mexico, who will leave the US in no doubt about the



Widespread fears of a United States-inspired conflagration in Central America.

The immediate direction of US strategy is unclear and is further confused by different evaluations from within the Administration of the progress of United States-backed rebels in Nicaragua.

The most common opinion is that if the Sandinista regime is still in power in six months it will be so entrenched that only a major war will dislodge it.

While some officials believe the Nicaraguan government is being seriously harassed, the more widespread belief is that it is more than capable for the foreseeable future of holding off the guerrillas, whose members are variously estimated at between 4,500 and 10,000.

That evaluation has led some commentators to believe that the Administration might accept the Sandinista regime as long as it was in the model of "national Communism", such as in Yugoslavia, and was not a base for Cuba or the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan will soon face another Congressional obstacle in his Central America policy when the House considers the Intelligence Authorization Bill for the fiscal year beginning October 1. The Democratic majority on the House Intelligence Committee will recommend deleting all funds - believed to have totalled \$90 million this year - for the Nicaraguan rebels.

According to legislative students neither the Senate nor the White House could overturn a refusal by the House to authorize the spending of public money. The only possible White House remedy would be to invoke its authority to spend some funds without Congressional approval in an emergency.

That, however, would raise intense political controversy about what constitutes an emergency. But in any case, such a recourse would probably not provide nearly enough money for the guerrillas, who are said to be poorly equipped and more willing than able to destabilize the Sandinista government.

MANAGUA: Nicaragua reported an air attack near the port of Corinto at the weekend and said a US warship had approached its coast in an offensive and provocative attitude, Reuters reports.

The Foreign Ministry said an unidentified aircraft had fired three rockets which had missed their target and exploded in the sea.

The US frigate Clifton Sprague 992 had cruised to within 15 miles of the Nicaraguan coast two days before the air attack.

TEGUCIGALPA: The US is to build a second radar station in Honduras as part of joint US - Honduran ground manoeuvres later this year, military sources said (Reuters reports). The station would be on Tiguera Island.

February the US built a radar station near Tegucigalpa, which monitors air traffic and is reported to guide secret reconnaissance flights over Central America.

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Curfew clampdown: Troops checking vehicles yesterday in Colombo. All traffic is stopped at every big intersection.

Colombo accused of seeking scapegoats

Colombo (Reuters) - The former Sri Lankan prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, yesterday said the Government appeared to be trying to find scapegoats for the violence which has swept the island.

On Saturday it banned three left-wing parties and said there was a foreign-inspired plot to overthrow it.

Mrs Bandaranaike, whose Sri Lanka Freedom Party was in power from 1970 to 1977, said: "We don't know if they had a good reason for the ban. We are not being kept informed by the Government. But it looks as if they are trying to find scapegoats".

The banning of parties could be counterproductive. She said her own government had locked up members of one of the parties banned by President Junius Jayewardene.

The party was the People's Liberation Front which was behind an armed insurgency against Mrs Bandaranaike's government in 1971.

"When he (Mr Jayewardene) took over, he let them out," the former prime minister said. She said she was not sure

what her party's reaction would be to proposed legislation outlawing separatist parties and effectively banning the main opposition group in Parliament, the Tamil United Liberation Front, which wants a separate state for the island's 2.5 million Tamils.

Mrs Bandaranaike said her party would have to meet to decide its line once the curfew was relaxed. Analysts said her party appeared likely to abstain to avoid repercussions from the majority Sinhalese community.

Food running out: Hotels on the island are reported to be running out of food. Holiday-makers arriving in Britain yesterday said staff at some hotels were too terrified to go out to try to replenish stocks.

Many shops had closed and not reopened (the Press Association writes).

Mr Marcos Taverner, aged 25, a lawyer who flew to Sri Lanka from the Maldives with his wife, Debbie, to catch a flight home to London, said: "The tension at the airport was something scary. There were a lot of armed soldiers and police. We had 18 hours to kill so we

went to freshen up at a hotel in Negombo - a holiday resort nearby.

"We went to Brown's Hotel. The one next door had been burnt to the ground. We had to get permission to leave the airport because there was an all-day curfew. There were armed troops on the streets and driving around in jeeps and we were stopped three times on the short journey."

Mr Taverner said that during the flight from the Maldives the Tamil passengers on board were very scared. "In particular, there was one Tamil cabin attendant who was petrified of landing in Colombo. He kept saying: 'I don't want to go, I don't know what will happen to me'."

"At the airport we saw Tamil families writing letters to give to people who were leaving - trying to get messages out of the country."

"Everyone was very furtive and when we got to the hotel at Negombo we found it was running out of food because the staff were so scared to go out and buy some more."

DELHI: A multi-party delegation from the southern

state of Tamil Nadu arrived yesterday for talks with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, on the violence in Sri Lanka, which has inflamed feelings in southern India (Reuters reports). The delegation is expected to call for effective steps to ensure the safety of people of Tamil origin in Sri Lanka.

PARIS: A Sri Lankan died after falling from the window of a sixth-floor flat during a fight here early yesterday between rival ethnic groups (AFP reports).

Police said some 20 Tamils burst into the flat in the seventeenth arrondissement where a group of Sinhalese were living. One of the occupants, who was not identified, died instantly after falling out of the window. Two were slightly injured in the fight.

Police believed the Tamils were taking revenge for an attack on members of their group by a gang of Sinhalese on Saturday. Four Tamils were injured, one seriously, in the earlier attack and 12 people were taken in for questioning.

Nigerian Army on elections alert

Lagos (Reuters) - Nigeria's Army has been placed on alert by President Shehu Shagari in case of disturbances during the country's elections starting next Saturday, administration officials said yesterday.

"If anybody causes trouble during the elections, I will not hesitate to send troops to quell it," the President was quoted as saying by the News Agency of Nigeria.

Officials said the Army would remain in its barracks during the five weeks of presidential, national and state elections, but would be deployed if the situation got out of police control.

Metric error made jet land

Ottawa - Air Canada, the state-owned airline, is reviewing its metric conversion procedures after a near disaster last week when one of its jets ran out of fuel during a flight.

A mistake was made in converting imperial measurements to metric ones in fueling a Boeing 767, carrying 69 people, which had to make an emergency landing hundreds of miles short of its destination.

Basque deaths

San Sebastian (AFP) - Two Civil Guards were shot dead yesterday at Guetaria, in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa, police said. They were guarding a quay when two young people opened fire on them and escaped in a car.

Aquino shock

Manila (AFP) - A Philippines military court has reaffirmed the death sentence against the opposition leader, former Senator Benigno Aquino, at present in the United States but expected to return here by mid-August. The Manila Times newspaper reported. The sentence had been set aside by President Marcos to give Mr Aquino a chance to present witnesses.

Pilot sentenced

Maguito (Reuters) - Clive Cistula, British pilot of a South African-registered light aircraft which made an unauthorized landing in Mozambique, has been sentenced to six months' gaol or a fine of £20 for each day of the sentence for making false statements to the authorities, according to the official news agency APM.

Oil fraud arrest

Mexico City (Reuters) - Señor Jorge Diaz Serrano, a former director of the Mexican state oil company Pemex, has been stripped of his senatorial immunity and arrested on a charge of defrauding the state of \$34m (£22.6m) when to oil tankers were bought in 1981.

Eating out

Stockholm - Miro Baresic, a Croat nationalist serving a life sentence here for killing the Yugoslav Ambassador in 1971, ended a hunger strike at the weekend after 45 days. The Government denies making any concessions to Mr Baresic.

Soviet vandals

Moscow (AP) - The party youth newspaper *Comsomol'skaya Pravda* reported widespread vandalism on electric trains serving Moscow suburbs and urged passengers to do more to stop hooligans smashing up the carriages. "Radio fans" were accused of stealing a total of 2,720 loudspeakers from trains.

Crash kills 13

Cape Town (AP) - A bus overturned near Atlantis, a housing development for Coloured (mixed-race) people north of here, killing 13 people and injuring 51.

China cricket

Hongkong - St George's cricket club here will make an historic tour of China at the end of next month, playing a series of matches against teams of local foreign diplomatic staff which will be watched by the Chinese.

Contadora fail to ease tension

Nine Latin American foreign ministers, meeting under the auspices of the "Contadora" Group, have made little progress towards reducing military tensions in Central America.

Although some ministers talked of substantial achievements, none was able to specify what they were. They conceded that time was running out for diplomacy.

Señor Juan Amado, Foreign Minister of Panama, told a press conference that the increased militarization in Central America was of grave concern. "We recognize that we must speed up our diplomatic activities".

Señor Rodrigo Lloredo, the Colombian Foreign Minister, stated that although President Reagan's dispatch of the United States naval flotilla in patrol off Nicaragua was not discussed, "we are all aware of this development".

The ministers from the four "Contadora" countries - Panama, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia - and five Central American states - Nicaragua,

and El Salvador and Cuban and Soviet military advisers from Nicaragua remains unresolved. According to Señor Lloredo, "all Central American countries agree that the external advisers will have to go eventually but most understand that this must be part of a general agreement".

He added: "They all say it, but I don't know if they mean it completely."

There is also the problem of supervision and inspection of such a withdrawal. Señor Amado said that the "Contadora" group agreed there must be an international supervisory force.

Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, suggested that supervision could be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council, while other ministers feel it might be handled by an Organization of American States peace keeping force.

While Father D'Escoto at first declared himself optimistic, he appeared less hopeful as the meeting neared its end.

From Martha Hoyer, Panama City

Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica - had before them three broadly similar peace proposals. None was adopted and they will apparently be further analyzed before the next meeting.

The communiqué stated that ministers had drawn up a list of issues to be analyzed by each country by Señor Amado refused to give details.

The most interesting point was a paragraph stating that the ministers should attempt to bring the military to their respective countries into the search for peace. This appeared to be a veiled recognition of the fact that in the majority of the states it is the military that holds the real power.

At least two of the critical issues before the "Contadora" group involve military matters. One is the removal of foreign military matters. One is the removal of foreign military forces from the region, a step which all nine countries verbally support.

Precisely how US advisers will be removed from Honduras

Iran seizes key peaks on border

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran said yesterday that its forces hoisted the nation's flag on three key border heights seized in a fresh offensive against Iraq and that its troops captured two frontier posts in the central sector of the Gulf War battlefield.

It said that more than 1,200 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded and over 100 taken prisoner, but gave no details of its own casualties.

Iran launched the offensive, the second in a week, early on Saturday with the stated aim of driving Iraqi troops out of Iranian territory around the town of Mehran and capturing high ground along the border.

Tehran radio did not make clear on which side of the frontier the three border heights lay. But a communique announcing the capture of the first two suggested they were in Iranian territory. It said they had been in Iraqi hands since the start of the Gulf War in September 1980, when Iraqi forces invaded Iran.

The Communique said Iranian forces had also recaptured the Iranian border post of Farrokhabad, taken an Iraqi post at Dorraji and now controlled the road south on the Iranian side of the border towards the town of Dohann.

The National News Agency quoted a front-line commander as saying that fighting was raging around the road.

A leaflet issued by the Tehran authorities in February showed the Iraqis holding a narrow strip of Iranian territory along this part of the border, with the front line between the two armies apparently 0 or near 0.

It also showed Iraqi troops holding a finger of Iranian territory jutting into Iraq just west of Mehran.

Chad demands combat planes

Ndjamena (Reuters) - Pro-Government militants in Chad took to the streets yesterday to demand that the United States, France and other nations send in combat aircraft in response to alleged Libyan air attacks against Chad for most of the last 17 years.

Colonel Gaddafi so far has limited his support for the rebels to arms and logistical bases across the border, although Chad officials say they have captured Libyan soldiers and other mercenaries.

The recapture of Faya-Largeau, a sprawling oasis town, 625 miles north of Ndjamena, by troops loyal to the pro-Western President Habré apparently marked a serious blow to the rebels.

French officials yesterday declined to discuss President Habré's request for intervention by the French Air Force (AFP and Reuters reports).

A spokesman at the Elysée Palace said he had no knowledge of the request, which was made in a letter delivered yesterday to the French Ambassador in Ndjamena by Mr Idriss Miskine, the Chad Foreign Minister. At the Defence Ministry an official said that he was aware of the Chadian appeal but could not comment on it.

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Government and diplomatic sources said the Libyan air force had resumed bombing raids on positions in and around the strategic northern town of Faya-Largeau, seized by the rebel forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei on June 24 and recaptured after a four-hour battle on Saturday.

If confirmed, the raids would represent the first direct intervention of the Libyan Air Force

in the current wave of fighting and would suggest deeper involvement by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, in the civil war which has raged in Chad for most of the last 17 years.

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Fifth Brigade withdrawn from Matabeleland

Harare (AP) - Troops of the 5,000-strong North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade, blamed for a wave of alleged atrocities against civilians in Matabeleland province, are being withdrawn from the strife-torn province to their barracks in the midlands, Western diplomats said yesterday.

The withdrawal of the troops, mostly of the dominant Shona tribe that support Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, is expected to ease tensions in the province which borders South Africa and Botswana.

It is alleged that the soldiers killed, tortured and raped hundreds of civilians and razed whole villages when they were sent to the province early this year to crack down on armed dissidents.

Diplomats say that the withdrawal of the troops from the province reflects military success against the dissidents

Fires sweep countryside as temperatures soar

By Our Foreign Staff

Hundreds of fires blazed in Italian and French countryside scorched by a heatwave yesterday as the start of the traditional August holiday rush brought long traffic queues.

In the toe of Italy, the village of Santa Marina Dello Ionio lay in smoldering ruins and in another village 60 houses were destroyed by fires. Fires raged in Sardinia where police suspected there had been arson in some cases, seeking compensation payments from the European Community. A man was wounded there on Friday when firefighters were shot at, police said. More than 1,000 Italian troops were helping fight fires in the island.

In Corsica, French troops and firemen had most fires under control yesterday but thousands of acres of forests are already burnt. In mainland France, woodlands near Mar-

seilles were closed for fear of fires.

An estimated 5.2 million motorists jammed French roads this weekend. In Italy, the Interior Ministry said more than six million vehicles were on the roads during Friday and Saturday. Temperatures in parts of France reached records of 40C (104F).

Hundreds of tourists in the Riviera resort of Juan-les-Pins ignored a pollution warning on Saturday, swimming in a sewage-ridden bay to get relief from the heat.

In Yugoslavia, more than 2,000 firefighters struggled throughout the night to control a forest fire threatening the resort of Dobrovo. Officials said the danger was finally averted just after dawn when the wind changed.

A fire near the central Adriatic port of Split destroyed a large area of woodland.

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THE ARTS

Opera: John Higgins reviews Siegfried at Bayreuth

British fidelity to Wagner's instructions

In an age much concerned with musical authenticity, whether of scores or instruments, why should there not be an equal reverence for original stage directions? That is the question clearly posed by the Hall-Dudley Ring after its third evening at Bayreuth. In turning the Ring back into a fairy-tale of gods and heroes, villains and dragons, forests and rivers, they have followed Wagner's instructions to the letter in all but a handful of instances...

Father's pretenses are in a darker part of the forest, but they do come with a private watering hole and there is every reason for the dragon to feel irritated when Siegfried starts paddling in it. It could easily serve for the Wolf's Glen in Frischsitz until Father and Mime are slain and the gloomy, dripping trees are transformed into summer green, to one of the most magical lighting changes seen so far, as Siegfried follows the Waterbird's call...

new crop of actor-singers, was the clear star. In Act II Jung allowed a little more of Siegfried to show through, the uncontrolled adolescent who grows up by the all-too-human way of killing (Father and Mime), listening (to the Woodbird) and finally loving (Brunnhilde).

backstage to front with the sleeping Brünnhilde presumably strapped no upside down at the start of the flight. Siegfried's cry "Das ist keio Maan" usually gets a laugh, but it has rarely been more apposite. Hildegard Behrens is the most feminine of Brünnhildes and she has changed from the St Joan of Walkure to a young girl enraptured by a golden boy. Behrens for the last section of the opera unleashed a stream of burnished tone. Jung, well aware of the competition on stage, had saved himself for these moments and gave Siegfried some heroic sound. The voice may be small and none too well-coloured, but Jung is supremely professional in making best use of his resources.

As at the end of Walkure Sir Georg Solti let the passions take over in the orchestra with sumptuous romantic sound. As on the first two evenings everything is most carefully paced, showing that Solti has completely rethought his approach to the Ring. When Decca come to record this Bayreuth Ring, as they are expected to next year, it is certainly not going to sound like the earlier Solti version.



Peter Haage's Mime: clearly the star

PUBLISHING

Machine minded

It could only happen in the USA. Which means that it will happen here a year or two thereafter. At the recent ABA, the annual American Book-sellers' gathering, Time-Life had in attendance on their stand a four-foot talking robot which accosted passers-by and enthused them about an autumn publication, Life in Space. As a result of the presence of the robot, the publisher at the next stand, Tom Congdon of Congdon & Weed, had difficulty in persuading delegates to look at his books. What Congdon did was to sign Ed Fish, the actor inside the robot, to write his memoirs, My Life as a Robot.

This year's Booker Prize judges will be spending much of what remains of the summer reading through publishers' offerings for what is still Britain's most newsworthy literary award. Publishers are allowed to submit a maximum of four titles each, which is tough on houses such as Cape who publish a lot of trendy fiction, and rough on the judges if certain other houses enter their full quota.

The date for submission of entries has passed although the judges may call in any title they think worthy of consideration even if its publisher did not. Certain publishers resolutely refuse to reveal what they have entered in case the authors of novels which have not been submitted complain and think of moving with their next book to imprints with fewer potential prize-winning ovelists.

Last year The Bookseller persuaded Martyn Goff of the National Book League, which administers the Booker, to slip them the complete list of titles submitted, and it is to be assumed that the same will happen this year. Already, as if to pre-empt that, Andre Deutch has told anyone interested the three titles he has entered. Two are first novels which will get nowhere, the third is Molly Keane's new book which may get somewhere because she has been on the short list before, and there is a tradition (though not unbreakable) that once an author has been on the short list with one book it is easier for him or her to get there again with another.

The judges this year are the New Zealand-born Fay Weldon, chairperson, whose own new novel being published this autumn is presumably ineligible unless her fellow judges insist it has to win; Angela Carter, novelist, reviewer and Gothic essayist; Terence Kilmarin, debutant literary editor of The Observer and translator of Proust; Libby Purves, yachtswoman, erstwhile broadcaster, former editor of The Tatler and commo reader; and Peter Porter, Australian, critic and poet.

At the judges' first meeting, Libby Purves said she hoped that they would not feel obliged to give the £10,000 to some feminist tract. Whether or not this was said to bait the judges, Angela Carter was baited. No doubt Fay Weldon moderated, and the poet chimed in to literary editor. At the recent dinner where the judges were entertained by the chairman Michael Caine and fellow Booker-McConnell top brass, Fay Weldon made a speech explaining what the judges should be looking for in the novels under consideration which upstaged Mr Caine.

It is generally agreed that this season's new British fiction is overall weaker than for a few years. The prize, notwithstanding Ms Purves, will probably go to a novel written by a woman published by a small, under-capitalized, little known imprint.

E. J. Craddock

The Two Pigeons Covent Garden

The most gratifying feature of the Royal Ballet's short summer season, which ended at Covent Garden on Saturday, is that (although the ranks of principal dancers are still overwhelmed with golden oldies) the policy of trying to make chances for the younger talents has been continued and even reinforced.

On Saturday afternoon it was Stephen Sheriff's turn to dance the leading role in The Two Pigeons for the first time. This has been quite a season for Sheriff: a scintillating Puck in

A Married Man (Channel 4)

has carried some of the longest conversations ever televised, in the time it took Clare Strickland, miraculously clean from the grave, to discuss God and socialism both of them died. If she had been in a UN debate, the other delegates would have walked out in protest. Temptation, it seems, was something to think about when I cooked the children's fish fingers, but the director might have tried to lighten the tone, at least, by showing us the fish fingers.

Anthony Hopkins, playing John Strickland, has never looked more pained. His whole acting career, going from pin-nae to pinnacle of agony, led

Television

Marital problems

up to the moment when he broke down on the garden bench. Throughout the series he has hardly been able to speak - you could boil an egg in the pauses between his words - but then he will begin to talk very, very quickly, cramming so many words into such a small space that the other characters relapse into stunned silence.

rather byzantine, in the way that slowly moving objects can mesmerize unsuspecting rabbits. All those acres of guilt and conscience led up to a revelation last night which might have come straight out of an American soap-opera: Graham Greene and Dynasty fastened together with some old rope.

There was marital problems also in The Last Company Car (Central): here was Tommy making love to his wife, but all he could really think about was his new Ford Fiesta. Perhaps it

bad less body rust. When he is made redundant he decides to shoot his former employer, having first bored him to death with some agitprop sentiments: "You with your public schools and your private education..."

There are few television dramas these days which do not concentrate on the theme of unemployment, although the combined effect of good intentions and bad art adds a new horror to that social problem. But perhaps the intentions of last night's play were out as good as all that: the unemployed man was portrayed as a homicidal buffoon. Is this the backlash?

Peter Ackroyd

Festivals Operatic trailer

Kate Kelly's Road Show Chester

Edward Cowie's opera Kelly is due at Cowie's Garden in 1986. It has already produced a number of pre-spin-offs, of which the most substantial, Kate Kelly's Road Show, was premiered in the course of the enterprising Chester Festival. So that we become familiar with the story of the Australian outlaw, Ned Kelly, Cowie has laid it out clearly in this one-woman monodrama, based on the travelling show which Kelly's sister Kate devised after he was executed in 1880.

In nine episodes, Kate tells of the family's hard life, Ned's violent tendencies, his struggles with the authorities and his final fate. The stories are dramatic enough, but it takes every ounce of Fiona Kimm's resourcefulness - which is considerable - to make them work on stage. She stamps, gestures, glares, studies the players next to her. But because she has no colleagues to react to her tales - presumably that will be different in the final opera - nothing really happens.

Until the final moments, that is, when Cowie disrupts the roadshow with an outburst from a planted audience member, denouncing Kate's "wicked exploitation of your brother's infamy and shame". She collapses - "It is this so I'm finished" - and the final episode, a message depicts her suicide by drowning.

To accompany this tale, Cowie has assembled a sort of Australian Soldier's Tale band, including accordion, bar piano and a buzzing jew's harp. Unlike some of Cowie's large-scale scores, the textures here are crisp and well-defined, with effective use of folk-song material, though much of the writing seems at first hearing to be dependent on generalized effects rather than precise pitch material. The vocal line, however, is strongly profiled, remarkably singable and unusually intelligible.

Sir Sidney Nolan has collaborated closely with Cowie - who is a painter himself - on the



The punks of La Colombe: Linda Ormiston, Adrian Thompson

opera. His designs here were in fact slide projections: bright, simple paintings preoccupied with the image of the square-jawed man with which Ned protected himself, the Australian countryside - was nicely evoked, but the mood of music and painting did not quite match.

Lootano - who in the first half had given a precisely atmospheric account of Pierrot Linaire with Linda Hirst - played vigorously with the conductor Odaline de la Martinez, zipped through the score in 25 minutes, rather than the composer's estimated 45, but did so with such panache that she made a fair bid to become Covent Garden's first woman conductor when Kelly reaches the boards there.

Nicholas Kenyon

La Colombe Buxton

Ornithological opera is becoming very much the thing, it seems, with eagles flying to freedom in Wales, doves on the wing at Glyndebourne and now a sister preening itself to the

music of Gounod at Buxton. The festival's second Boccaccio-inspired opera is La Colombe, and the eponymous bird becomes the centrepiece in a tussle of love, social climbing and gastronomy.

The story, already filtered through La Fontaine and the librettists Barbier and Carré, changes Boccaccio's falcon into a dove to please the French sensibility; and Buxton continues the tradition, with Snoo Wilson translating and freely rewriting lyrics and dialogue, sharpening further the abrasive humour and self-regard which transmutates the original, darker and more poignant tale.

John Byrne, designer, has set the actio (if such it can be called) in a handsomely painted dolce-vita style converted pizza-van, oow the squat of a couple of punks, Horatio (Adrian Thompson) and Marnet (Linda Ormiston), who find themselves having to entertain former lover and contessa Sylvia (Kathryn Harries) and the bespattered major-domo - Maître Jean (Donald Maxwell). Stuart Jean ensures that the racy, updated dialogue is pushed along with a vigour and élan matched by the zestful singing and character acting of Adrian Thompson, Linda Ormiston and particu-

larly the all-round resonance of Donald Maxwell, though Kathryn Harries has a harder time of it to a part originally written for a Callas and Sutherland rolled into one.

Indeed, it is such a convincing piece of theatre that, particularly in Act I, where arias seem ever fewer and further between, Gounod risks being the loser. No matter how inventively, and for the most part stylishly, Anthony Hose and the Manchester Camera apply themselves to those swirling string roulades, those chucking and sighing woodwinds, and oo matter how idiomatically the singers handle their long, mellifluous lines, the music is in danger of being frozen into episodes as isolated as any opera seria.

The work has not been staged in Britain for more than a century, and it is something of a pity that first-time audiences much of its quintessentially Gallic nonchalance and evanescent charm are inevitably smothered in a production whose whole-hearted joie-de-vivre over-the-top brings it back credibly and creditably to the repertoire.

Hilary Finch

Dance

Janet Soares The Place

With all the performing arts feeling the pinch, it makes good sense to devise a dance programme set entirely to piano music. Find a good enough pianist, and you can still happily listen to the Scylla of taped music and the Charybdis of high orchestral costs. That was the moral of the programme given by the Janet Soares Company at The Place on Saturday evening. Unfortunately it was also their only commendation.

Elsenda Fabrega, who played throughout the evening, presented her credentials in the form of three Albeniz pieces (from Iberia, Books I and II) as a solo interlude. Bach (a selection of Two and Three Part Inventions), Poulenc's Trois

Nocturnes and a small anthology of Satie's short pieces accompanied choreography by Janet Soares - all much more interesting to listen to than to watch.

The one work where music and movement came rewardingly together was, Contra Dances, with choreography by Remy Charlip to Beethoven's Cootredances. This is one of Charlip's "Air Mail Dances" devised (with the aid of two spoons of thread, according to the programme note) in the form of diagrams and brief instructions drawn and written on two sheets of paper.

The result is more a choreographic joke than a serious dance creation. Charlip, besides his career as dancer and choreographer, has written and illustrated 24 children's books. The wide-eyed innocence he brings to them is an important part of his dance work, and he has devised

some unexpected patterns of movement around or across the stage that bear a naive, amusing but convincing relationship to the music. They demand an interpretation at all, only punctilious execution, so the rather stuffy self-importance which Soares and her partners bring to their other dances finds a happy release in this more childish context.

For all its happy frivolity, Charlip's piece held together as a complete whole. Part of the trouble with Soares's own choreography is that, although full of ideas, it never really took off into continuing movement, but kept stopping and starting. Also, she never seemed to draw much strength of inspiration from the scores. Her neo-bright idea about using piano music might well be better developed by others.

John Percival

Theatre Sher's dazzling villainy

Pride and obstinacy evidently ruin in Orgon's family, and the production powerfully underscores the main plot with the early squabble between foolishly estranged lovers, hauled back together by Stephanie Fayerman's masterfully funny Dorine.

The central relationship verges on nightmare. You get the flavour of it long before Tartuffe himself arrives from Orgon's treatment of the family. Nigel Hawthorne retains all the external marks of his former self so as to intensify the sense of its absence. Never does he sound more indifferent than when he uses terms of endearment; and, as he rebounds between ingratitude and rage, the comedy takes on the quality of a fatal disease.

When he finally recognizes his error with Alison Steadman's Elmire, there is no comedy at all, only heartbreak. Recreated from within, Hawthorne's Orgon remains in

appearance a familiar figure. There is, however, no traditional image for Tartuffe, and the main shocks of the evening begin with the arrival of Antony Sher as a lank-haired imp in a bedraggled grey habit, accompanied by an identical double (the normally unseen valet, Laurent).

Together they share a conspiratorial relationship, conveying the private side of Tartuffe that Moliere omitted to supply. Sher's performance is one of dazzling Mephistophelean villainy: passing from lechery to piety to a single breath, achieving his first victory over his enemies by simulating the signs of the stigmata, and executing spell-binding changes from sanctimonious benevolence to the appetite of a succubus with the aid of an obscene flickering tongue. I have never seen a greater Moliere performance.

Irving Wardle

Promenade Concerts

BBCPO/Downes Nash/Friend Albert Hall/Radio 3

A Friday evening blockbuster and a Saturday evening serenade provided the weekend's first two Proms: the blockbuster was impressive, to a blunt sort of way; the serenade was wholly delightful.

Friday's Prom was the last of three by the BBC Philharmonic, and included the massive "Leningrad" Symphony of Shostakovich. Hard to recapture oow the impact that this naively strident tale of battle seems to have had in the dark days of the Second World War: the symphony had nearly 100 hearings in America the year after it was written - on wooder Bartok was moved to parody its irritating march theme in his Concerto for Orchestra.

Now, of course, the Bartok parody is far better known than the Shostakovich original - and with justice. Thanks to Edward Downes for the disinterment of this piece must be tempered by the reflection that it is, on the whole, pretty awful music. That first movement march, growing from the relentless tap of the snare drum - seemingly twice as long as Bolero and half as effective - is crude in outline, and there is a terrible moment in the coda when the snare drum starts again and ooe fears the whole exercise will self-repeat.

The BBC Philharmonic played with titanic strength, though, on an intolerably hot night in the hall, there were more than a few slips and nervousness in the exposed woid solos. Edward Downes made what he could of the barren slow movement, and allowed the final transformation of the opening theme to blare out with the requisite obviousness.

In the first half, the orchestra had sounded less well focused

in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto - a work which not so long ago the BBC's Controller of Music defended excluding from the Proms on the basis that we had to distinguish between "the very popular and the very great". A riveting performance could have justified the piece's return, but - perhaps the heat was at work again - Elisabeth Leonskaja gave a splashy, vigorous but uncontrolled reading, full of bumps.

We have come to expect bright, imaginative planning from the Nash Ensemble, but in Saturday's programme they (perhaps with the help of the BBC) surpassed themselves. Czech and Russian chamber works rubbed shoulders, with the clever link of jazz between the jangling, cimbalom-dominated texture of Stravinsky's Ragtime and the piano vamping of Martinu's La Revue de

cuisine. The latter was the evening's curiosity: a ballet for kitchen implements which turned out to be more of a musical knee-up, wittily scored and full of tunes which nearly turned into Twenties hits.

In the effort to project the small-scale music in the Albert Hall there was a little strident over-blowing from the wind in the evening's two subtler pieces. Janacek's spiky old-man's hymn to youth, Mladi (which was however crisply articulated), and Dvorak's gloriously related Serenade in D minor. But the scampering of the trio in the Dvorak minuet were beautifully done, and the ensemble's hard edge returned in a splendidly pungent finale: Stravinsky's Renard, wisely done in English, strongly projected by the singers, and firmly conducted by Lioel Friend.

Nicholas Kenyon

Advertisement for National Theatre performances. Text includes: 'OPENING PERFORMANCES', 'Low price previews: Tonight, Tomorrow, Wed at 7.45. Opens Thurs Aug 4 at 7.00. Then Aug 5, 6 (m&e); 8 (m&e)', 'The famous comedy, by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, about a New York family in the '30s', 'YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU', 'NATIONAL THEATRE (Lyttelton)', 'Box Office: 01 928 2252', 'Credit Cards: 01 928 5933', 'John Percival'.

Sugar's bitter harvest

TWO youths slash the face of a baby girl in her pram while robbing her mother... An eight-year-old handicapped child is beaten up and thrown over a wall by older boys... A woman aged 83 is attacked in her own home, gagged, raped and robbed of her small savings by youths she had befriended... Young vandals set a city bus alight, forcing terrified passengers to flee as the upper deck is gutted within minutes... A four-year-old girl is snatched from a country lane, sexually assaulted and murdered... A man strolls into a crowded supermarket, empties a can of petrol over women and children, tosses a lighted match at them, and escapes with the screams of his victims ringing in his ears...

Stories like these would once have convulsed us with horror. Today they are commonplace. This chilling selection came from a cursory glance through just one week's newspapers: some were reported in a single paragraph. We have become desensitized to violence.

We accept that violent crime - brutal, unprovoked, often unmotivated - is a fact of life in western society today. More and more its victims are those unable to protect themselves: women, old people, the physically handicapped, children and babies.

Just as disturbingly, the assailants are becoming younger all the time. In the 25 years from 1952 to 1977, the rate of arrest in the United States for murder, assault, rape and manslaughter doubled among the 15 to 25 age group and trebled among those aged between 15 and 17. But it increased six-fold among children under 15. In London last year there were over 1,600 attacks on bus drivers and conductors: most of them by schoolchildren.

What turns ordinary people into violent criminals? Why do children become vandals and sadistic brutes?

There is endless debate about the causes, covering a wide range of psychological and social factors such as unemployment, poverty, inner-city tensions, racial problems, disadvantage and deprivation, too much violence on TV and video nasties. And the solutions discussed range from harsher jail sentences to a taste of military discipline. But in all the discussions, one factor is seldom, if ever, considered: diet.

Could there be a connexion between poor diet and anti-social behaviour? Could eating the wrong food help turn children into hooligans? Most people would dismiss the idea as far-fetched, but over the years evidence that this could actually be the case has been steadily accumulating.

Late twentieth century diet is a disaster for millions in the West, especially among the poor and their children. For many of them, the staple of their diet is highly refined carbohydrate - white sugar and white flour, both stripped of so many vitamins and other important nutrients. Other serious nutrient losses occur when food is canned, frozen and processed. Thousands of chemical additives are poured into the products, of which few are tested for their effect on the central nervous system and never in combination. Fruit and vegetables are polluted by residues of pesticides and fungicides over meant for human consumption; fish is contaminated with toxic metal wastes accumulating in the world's oceans; meat and chicken by drugs added to animal feeds; lead - a potent poison - is building up in our environment. Researchers have looked for possible links between these factors and the growth in violent crime, but in the past two or three years they have concentrated increasingly on just one area: hypoglycaemia, or low blood sugar. And the arch-criminal of the piece may

It is one of our basic foodstuffs, enjoyed the world over in a million different forms. But research in America now suggests that sugar has a darker side, one that can turn an apparently normal person into a violent criminal. The research has produced evidence that sugar, and diet in general, can change behaviour patterns in humans. And it has started a new train of thought on how to deal with offenders

well turn out to be sugar, that pure, white and deadly substance which the world consumes in ever-growing quantities.

Whole foods eaten in a healthy diet are slowly broken down into glucose in the bloodstream, and the excess is stored in the liver as glycogen, the process being delicately monitored by hormones. The efficient function of the brain, which uses up more than 25 per cent of the body's glucose supplies, depends on the maintenance of those levels of glucose, or blood sugar.

But refined sugar - sucrose is a concentrated carbohydrate, converted so quickly into glucose that the blood sugar level rocks. The pancreas pours out insulin to bring the level plunging down again; and in turn the adrenal glands respond by releasing epinephrine as a signal to the liver to pour out more blood sugar, thus raising the level again.

These sudden drops in blood sugar evoke the condition known as hypoglycaemia, in which messages from the brain controlling mood, motivation and learning are perpetually disrupted. The result may be a sudden burst of temper, aggression, anti-social behaviour, as well as depression, changes of mood, confusion, fatigue and irritability. Caffeine, alcohol, smoking, and exposure to allergens can all trigger this unbalancing of the body chemistry, but nothing triggers it faster, or more predictably, than sugar.

Significantly, the rise in sugar consumption has exactly paralleled the rise in violent crime: today we eat something like 5½ tablespoons of sugar



daily for every man, woman and child in Britain: one family, consisting of father, mother, daughter aged four and a six-month-old baby used 11 pounds of sugar a week, apart from that consumed in biscuits, cakes, puddings, soft drinks, breakfast cereals, sweet pickle and even canned vegetables. The average American gets through 128 pounds of sugar a year, but children consume much more than adults with their sweets, chocolate, ice-creams and fizzy drinks.

Interest in the sugar-crime hypothesis was heightened by a study in America in 1975, which found that 85 per cent of offenders checked were found to have low blood sugar. A separate study in America in 1980 showed that a large percentage of juvenile delinquents tested were found to be eating more than 400 pounds of sugar a year in various forms.

One of the most energetic researchers into the diet-crime link is Alexander Schauss, a former probation officer in the United States. While helping heroin junkies in Harlem in the 1960s, he noticed that those eating a healthy diet found it far easier to kick the drug habit than those living on high sugar "junk" food.

And while working with the South Dakota youth service, he found that those group homes with a better record of rehabilitation were the ones providing the juveniles with a better diet. In one home, the inmates had their own vegetable garden and were not allowed sugar, coffee or tea. They ate only "wholesome" food. Juveniles there stayed for an average of only three months, compared to a State average of 18 months.

In the late 1970s, Schauss set up the American Institute for Biosocial Research, concentrating on the biochemical and environmental causes of anti-social behaviour. At first he was regarded by orthodox social workers, doctors and nutritionists as something of a quack.

"I found that my colleagues in the criminal justice system were ready to be interested, to be open-minded," he said. "The resistance came from the medical establishment. I suggested to them, over and over again that our science was too immature at this time to make judgments about whether or not our approach was scientifically valid, but that if nutrition could reduce recidivist rates and prevent young people from entering into the criminal system, it was at least worthy of investigation."

His argument was successful, and today Schauss is increasingly consulted by those dealing with young offenders. He has orchestrated research programmes, lectured worldwide, and has trained thousands of social workers to initiate and carry out similar programmes.

In 1977, a US Senate Select Committee on nutrition and human needs heard an Ohio probation officer, Mrs Barbara Reed, testify to her success in treating offenders by diet. The offenders were tested for hypoglycaemia with a written questionnaire. She found that a high proportion of the people she questioned, not only appeared to be hypoglycaemic, but responded remarkably well to being placed on a diet to correct the condition: no sugar, coffee, alcohol, sweets or processed food containing

additives. By 1975 one of the judges was already instructing defendants: "Mrs Reed is going to put you on a diet, and you will stay on it or you will go to jail because you will be back in trouble if you go off it". She said that out of 252 offenders who had stayed on her diet, not one had returned to court.

Among those impressed by her testimony were the directors of the US Naval Correctional Centre in Seattle, who decided to cross off white sugar and white flour from the menu. A year later they reported that there was a reduction in sickness, a reduction in medications needed, and a 12 per cent reduction in disciplinary reports.

But the strongest evidence, yet of a link between crime and diet is contained in the results of a two-year study set up by Stephen Schoenthaler, Professor of Criminology at California State University.

The study involved 276 chronic young offenders aged between 12 and 18 living in a Virginia correction centre. Only a few of the staff, and none of the subjects knew that they were acting as guinea pigs. They were led to believe that the vanishing soft drink machine, and the disappearance of their favourite ice-creams, puddings, cookies - even the sugar bowls on the tables - was purely for health reasons at the whim of their director, who was known to be a keen vegetarian.

The results were startling. The number of well-behaved juveniles jumped by 71 per cent, the number of chronic offenders went down by 50 per cent, and the incidence of anti-social behaviour fell by an average of 47 per cent.

And the evidence is finally beginning to impress. Under Alexander Schauss's direction, the Institute for Biosocial Research launched 95 programmes in the USA and elsewhere, with intensive training courses for the professionals involved.

"It has taken 13 years to set it all up," Schauss says, "and we're unwilling to hand it over as a complete technological package complete with all the information, unless we feel it's going to be handled properly. The first thing that has to be done is to get all professional people interested and informed about it. The state in the forefront of the research is Alabama. For eight solid working days we trained their entire social services staff, right from the top man down. They had to remodel their own lifestyles at the same time: you can't impress on children the necessity of giving up treats if they see their teachers drinking cokes and smoking all the time."

A month ago, Schauss lectured on his work to a symposium on international nutrition at Surfers Paradise in Queensland, Australia. The directors of Queensland's social services went along to listen. They were so enthusiastic about what they heard that he's flying back to Queensland next month to set up a ten-year nutritional programme for schools and remainder homes.

Schauss, however, is careful to emphasize the limitations of his work. "I don't know anyone here who regards diet as a panacea, and certainly nobody here believes that crime is caused by poor diet: it's one of many factors. But the more severe a person's behavioural problems, the more likely he is to have physiological problems too: what we have begun to realise is that when a person is placed on a good diet, at least it gives him or her the chemistry to respond to direction, information, to education. There have been a lot of programmes, a lot of studies - and not one of them has failed to show substantial positive results."

Barbara Griggs

moreover... Miles Kington

Full of Eastern promise

You don't really notice slow drivers in cities, because everyone has to drive slowly in cities - it's in the country where they really come into their own. You know the kind I mean. They go through 30 mph limits at a steady 25 mph and then, as soon as the road is unrestricted, they shoot up to a breathtaking 29 mph. Some there is a line of impatient cars behind them, each one of which overtakes the slow driver as and when it can, and sometimes when it can't, and before long it's your turn to overtake. You know it's going to be dangerous, but you feel the pressure of all the drivers behind you, willing you to make a split for it. Go on. Do it. There probably isn't a huge jolly counting the police way.

And as you're driving with death in your mind, like a poker player with a bad hand and an urge to stake more money on it, you find yourself looking at the back of the slow driver's head. It's the kind of back of head you aren't going to get any help from. It's solid and immovable. It has a message for you. And the message is: Go on, overtake and kill yourself! I've seen lots of people die trying to overtake me. One more won't make any difference.

Occasionally the slow driver will slow down, if that were possible, to wave at a passing pedestrian, sometimes a pedestrian who is actually overtaking him, and it's then you realize why he is driving slowly. He's a local, and one of the pleasures of his day is waving at friends, which he couldn't do if he were driving at the 55 mph we are all willing him up to. Well, I don't know about you, but when I realize that I can ease off and a year's saving at all his friends. They all wave back. It's amazing how many friends I turn out to have in East Anglia. And how relaxing it is driving at 29 mph.

I say East Anglia, because these reflections came to me last week on a drive from Southwold to Kings Lynn. Another reflection which came to me is that there are no roads leading from Southwold to Kings Lynn, only roads leading somewhere else. I should have known this before I started, when I asked an inhabitant of Southwold how to get to Kings Lynn. "God damn", he said. He'd never met anyone before who wanted to go there. Probably there never had been anyone. Anyway, I found myself wandering down a lot of brown B roads where I made my second interesting observation on East Anglia: East Anglian petrol is totally different once you get off the main road.

Jet, Total, Fina and BP may dominate the A roads, like the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, but once into the back lanes you find the guerrilla petrols taking over. Phoenix, Anglo, Freedom, Valiant, Little David - they all sound like Saxon remnants occupying the countryside where the boys haven't gone. And it's about giving the locals the amazing power of motorising at 29 mph. "Thanks to Valiant, everyone now waves to me as I pass. Valiant, the friendly petrol."

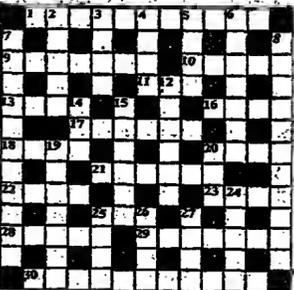
And the third discovery is that the staple crop of East Anglia is not corn, mustard or broad beans; it is festivals. No town is too small, no church too crumbly, to house a festival. Like jam in Alice in Wonderland, they are all last week or next week, but nevertheless from every field leans a sign promising a festival, or village which are too poor to have a festival can put up a sign saying that they had one last week.

In very low-lying areas, such as Beccles, the festivals turn into regattas, and in some places they have carnivals, but carnivals are only festivals without a string quartet. In fact, the five grades of festival can be determined in terms of a quartet.

1. Top festivals, with a top string quartet.
2. Rising festivals, with a string quartet which is going to be very famous very soon, even though it is now quite unknown.
3. Small festivals with a quartet from the far side of the county - the Suffolk Youth String Quartet, as it were.
4. Very small festivals with quartets from the village.
5. Tiny festivals with no music, only flower arranging. But at least they have the option of growing up into a carnival if they want to.

Was it my imagination, or did I see a sign towards the end of my journey reading "Last Festival before Kings Lynn"? I'm not sure. I was too busy keeping down to 29 mph and waving to local farmers at the time.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 115)



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sneaky mover (11)
 - 9 Older pawan (7)
 - 10 A good reason (4)
 - 11 Last of many (3)
 - 12 Lined hood (4)
 - 13 Lined hood (4)
 - 14 Lined hood (4)
 - 15 Lined hood (4)
 - 16 Lined hood (4)
 - 17 Eye cover (6)
 - 18 Domes recess (4)
 - 19 Weapons (4)
 - 20 Weapons (4)
 - 21 Wild west (6)
 - 22 Area unit (4)
 - 23 Tough youth (5)
 - 24 Engage (5)
 - 25 Proud best (7)
 - 26 Weather story (11)
- DOWN**
- 2 United (5)
 - 3 Is seated (4)
 - 4 Food plant (4)
 - 5 City of rain (4)
 - 6 Elder (7)
 - 7 Special payments (11)
 - 8 Bismarck (11)
 - 12 Felt hat (6)
 - 14 Look at (3)
 - 15 Obain (6)
 - 16 Chest (7)
 - 19 Syrian cloth (5)
 - 24 Hold fast (5)
 - 25 Woody plans (4)
 - 26 Beloved (4)
 - 27 Testament (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 114**
- ACROSS:** 1 Landing 5 Disco 8 Rue 9 Miracle 10 Canoe 11 Keen 12 Dangler 14 Tenderhearted 16 Applied 18 Iron 21 Get on 22 Adapter 23 Col 24 Elm 25 Theatre
- DOWN:** 1 Lane 2 Nerve 3 Inconvenience 4 Green 5 Decontaminate 6 Single 7 Overdrive 13 Strangle 15 Naphtha 17 Desk 19 Octet 20 Base

Taking a new approach

The research of historians gives a twist to the word "findings". There are, of course, discoveries in the traditional sense of the word, but it comes to light in an unexpected way, the letters that surface from a family archive, the diary that can be authenticated, and the 30-year rule which makes state papers available for inspection after three decades.

Most historical research moves forward, however, not on the back of objects found, but as a result of new insights. These shafts of light come either as a result of the application of new methodology, the adoption of new assumptions, garnered from other disciplines - like anthropology, sociology, economics - or a change in that amorphous entity, "the climate of opinion", new perceptions about the past derived from current preoccupations with the present.

High standards

Historians like Professor Roderick Floud, of Birkbeck College, University of London, are involved in a group research project using complementary skills of economists, biologists, statisticians and computer tech-

nology to assess the evidence of young people's height as an indicator of changes in nutrition, health and welfare of the population of Britain over the past 200 years. Professor Floud sees height as an accurate reflection of the nation's public health: the harder children have to work, the more disease they suffer, the smaller the income of their parents, the poorer the nutrition, the more polluted the air, the slower and more stunted will be their growth.

The results of this research will provide a means of analysing the possible causes and consequences of improvements in the standard of living - for example a healthy population is a more productive one, and evidence of height has fuelled the debate over whether the standard of living rose or fell in the over-crowded, ill-sanitized, smoke-polluted towns of early industrialized Britain. As a result of his research Floud is categoric: the standard of living of the working class did improve during the Industrial Revolution.

Breaking out

Historians, like scientists or crime writers, need to isolate their subjects for study. A "total institution", a term coined by Erving Goffman, the American sociologist, means all forms of institutions in which the authorities seek a "total" regulation of the inmates' lives. Goffman's work

Asylums, was on American mental hospitals, but the term has subsequently been extended to cover prisons, reformatories, monasteries, convents, schools, even the servants' quarters of country houses or merchant ships.

This year's Social History Conference took total institutions as its theme and, partly influenced by the work of Michel Foucault, a spate of books on prisons and workhouses has appeared in the past couple of years. Now the author of one of them, Michael Ignatieff (*A Just Measure of Pain. The Penitentiary System in the Industrial Revolution*) has begun to cast doubts on the validity of this "enclosure" approach and argues that what is important is not what happens inside the walls, but the historical relation between inside and out. He suggests the essential question which historians must ask, is what part an institution played in the reproduction of the social order in the world beyond its walls, the effects on society through the symbolic weight of those walls for whom was prison a disgrace and for whom simply one of life's unremitting blows. Such information can tell us a great deal about the demarcations in society between the "rough" and "respectable" classes, and the "respectable" working classes.

Glasgow, in this summer's issue of the journal *History*, James VI and I *Two Kings One?* She instances the Anglo-centric view of a modern English historian of James which sees him as "suspect to the English... his ungainly presence, mumbling speech and dirty ways did not inspire respect... it was clear that the sanctity of the monarchy itself would soon be called into

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research HISTORIOGRAPHY

Scots myth

Scotland fights back! For far too long, some of the younger Scottish historians think, Scotland has been regarded as the poor relation of England, its history judged by English standards, appropriate for English traditions - and has been found wanting. The two nations' treatment comes together in the person of James VI of Scotland and I of England, writes Jenny Wormald, of the University of



question", and a Scottish historian's view of James as "a man of very remarkable political ability and sagacity in deciding on policy and of conspicuous tenacity in having it carried out... he was assuredly the most successful of his line in governing Scotland". Englishmen, both then and now, Wormald argues, have wilfully ignored the political power and effectiveness of the Scottish parliament because it lacked the sophisticated institutional arrangements of the English model.

Old habits

The move away from the history of events when the past was chronicled as a sequence of dates, to "total history", which looks instead at the broad processes of change to provide a background to political events, has become so accepted over the past 15 years that historians, particularly French historians, have turned to look at the history of attitudes, mentalities, and have engaged in various exercises in emphatic reconstructions of the past. In Britain this has proved particularly fruitful for some historians of the Ancient World. According to Keith

Hoplins, of Brunel University, a classicist turned sociologist, this is because there is little data about the Ancient World that allows for a plasticity of interpretation that is not permitted in quite the same way to historians of later periods, hedged around as they are by the oppressive majesty of facts and figures. In Hoplins's own case, this takes the form of a recreation of the phenomenon of brother-sister marriages which constituted about a third of all marriages in Roman Egypt in the third century AD and an examination of gladiatorial sports, both of which cause us to re-examine our views about the historical specificity of taboos about incest and murder. And for Moses Finley it means taking the model of slavery in the American south to illuminate the system of slavery in the Ancient World.

Solid theory

In the heady days of the 1960s when ideology was (just) king, historians had a penchant for reconstructions of the past and were continually tapping social and political structures for evidence of instability. Now, in these sober and pragmatic times, the stability and continuity of institutions commands more interest. A good example of this approach is the recent work done on the origins of the Civil War by such historians as Conrad Russell, Kevin Sharpe and John Morrill. This has rejected the idea of the inevitable collapse of a feudal state whose feud with the political favour of a population increased by royal

encroachments. Rather they stress the basic stability - even dynamism - of the state and the passivity, confusion and neutrality of the majority of the population. They cite the origins of the Civil War in the conjunction of two extraordinary sets of circumstances - the blindness and political ineptitudes of one man, Charles I, and the unique position of a royal parliament under threat at the end of hostilities with Scotland, and emphasize that the war was made by a handful of activists rather than a disenchanted generality.

Growing interest

The study of business history gets another boost from the work of the business unit at the London School of Economics, Leslie Hannah is determined that these studies should broaden out into the wider dimensions of economic history. He points out that most economic history studies have tended to concentrate on the declining industries - coal and textiles - rather than the growth industries of the second "industrial revolution," pharmaceutical and electronic production. It is a preoccupation reflected in the title of his latest book, *Engineers, Managers and Politicians*, which is a history of the nationalized electricity industry since the war.

Juliet Gardiner

سكوا من الأصل

MODERN TIMES



A sideways look at the British way of life

Here's what Lytton Strachey, the naughty girl, was doing in the National Gallery in June 1930. There was a black-haired tart marching around in india-rubber boots, and longing to be picked up. We both lingered in the strangest manner in front of various masterpieces - wandering from room to room. Then on looking round I perceived a more attractive tart - fair-haired this time - a pink face and plenty of vitality. So I transferred my attentions, and began to move in his direction when on looking more closely I observed that it was the Prince of Wales - no doubt at all - a custodian bowing and scraping, and Philip Sassoon also in attendance...

There must be hundreds of equally juicy anecdotes told in the privacy of museum staff-rooms where the attendants put their feet up for a few minutes' tea-break. But museum attendants are frustratingly discreet: they take a pride in their good relations with the public, and are ever alert to any breach in that vast amorphous abstract, security.

On duty, they talk to each other like people at a grand cocktail party, constantly glancing over each other's shoulders to see if somebody more important has come in. In the National Gallery, they are provided with chairs, and are required to wear ties, not many hats. In the Natural History Museum, no chairs or ties, all hanted. In the V&A, hats on, ties off (but in the pocket in case the chief warder changes his mind), and very uncomfortable-looking high stools.

The uniform of many attendants also displays a short-length of chrome-plated chain, on the end of which is a whistle. This jailer image was emphasized as I watched an attendant with a longer bit of chain than usual, patrolling a room full of musical instruments. Every now and then he

peered suspiciously into one of the cases, as if to make sure that the sixteenth-century zither imprisoned there was not going to make a desperate bid for freedom.

He was probably just reading the labels. Unless the museum is very small, an attendant cannot relax if there are no visitors. He can't sit down and read a book. The rooms they work in can be very warm in summer, and bitterly cold in winter. "You can't help but learn", I was told. "Often there's nothing to do but walk up and down and look at the exhibits."

This is why most museum attendants are far more knowledgeable than one might expect, and not just from reading labels. In some museums the staff have access to the director's library during night shifts, and are encouraged to dip into its contents.

Where the staff are members of a union, they like new arrivals to join - usually the TGWU, or sometimes the Civil Service Union. They do not talk much about union business. Security again. With some of the nutters around nowadays, you can't be too careful.

There was a time when security was not so tight,

and nutters were more benign. A lady came to a National Trust property, armed with a pair of bicycle handlebars. The attendants could not persuade her to part with them, since she said she had been threatened by a man in the garden. She got quieter as she entered a long windowless corridor, until she came to a large painting of a male nude. "That's him!" she shrieked, and shot off down the passage.

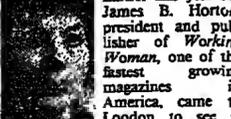
Being a museum attendant is not a glamorous job but those who do it have a quiet, protective affection both for their museums and the public - even the bossy ones, who yell "Don't touch please!" with all the relish of a pantomime drill sergeant. In Palm Beach, Florida, however, to be an attendant at the newly-opened Henry Flangier Museum carries an enormous social cachet. Their job applications file reads like the Palm Beach social register, and there are 16 Rolls-Royces in the staff car-park.

George Bonilla, a V & A warder, laughed. "It's not like that here," he said. "Even the director comes to work in an old Ford."

Artemis Cooper

Penny Perrick

Do come back, Mr Horton



Earlier this year Mr James B. Horton, president and publisher of Working Woman, one of the fastest-growing magazines in America, came to London to see if there was a market for his journal. Pretty soon he decided that there wasn't. For Britain, it seemed to him, is very short of women "who regard careers as exciting, glamorous and sexy". If Mr Horton had stayed longer he would have been disillusioned further by the British way of life since he would have discovered that, over here, merdoo' regard careers as exciting, glamorous or sexy either. In fact, those adjectives are hardly ever used except to advertise the kind of black chiffon nightdress that meo buy their wives every Christmas Eve and which their wives then return to the store every Boxing Day.

Expecting a day at the office to produce the same glow as a candlelit dinner with Robert Redford is asking altogether too much of any working life. On the other hand a career can be interesting, fulfilling and a satisfactory method of paying the rent, something which women are discovering for themselves, as the increasing number of female graduates moving into finance, law, marketing and other potentially high-powered areas shows. All these working women might have bought a magazine like Working Woman with its brisk articles on negotiating a reasonable salary and what goes on at board meetings had Mr Horton given them the chance.

Audrey Slaughter, the creator of Honey and Over 21, would like to launch a new magazine for women who work, but she is finding it tough going. Ooe financier she approached thought women wouldn't like to be seen carrying around That Sort of Thing, as though she were proposing a ruder version of Playboy.

Perhaps he read more into the suggested features on working wardrobes and tax allowances than were apparent to the more innocent eye. Or it could be that he thought the women might be ashamed to have, tucked under their arm something that smacks so heartily of Getting On.

Here he is on stronger ground because I know a woman publisher who feels on end of a show-off when carrying a briefcase, although no other kind of reticule is as handy for housing her reports and manuscripts and lunchtime sandwich.

Happy accident

By and large, whether male or female, we are out a nation of careerists. When we call someone ambitious we certainly don't mean it as a compliment, which is why people go to great lengths to prove that it was only by happy accident that they found room at the top. "I just happened to meet this bloke who asked me had I ever thought of running a multinational construction company"... "My dad bought me an old typewriter and suddenly Martin Scorsese put in a bid for the film rights."

It is not considered mannerly to ask someone you've just been introduced to what they do for a living, even if their glossy pinstripes and cared-for fingernails suggest they have nothing to hide.

Although they may have discovered a cure for diabetes or redesigned half of Birmingham, they insist you wouldn't be interested in hearing about their job and then proceed to bore you with stories about their recent sailing holiday. Probably, were a visiting Martian to ask Mrs Thatcher her line of business, she would lower her eyes modestly, mutter something about dabbling in politics and then give him her recipe for Chicken Tourniquette.

It is this low-key attitude towards work which has given people like Mr Horton pause. If Mr Mansfield, managing director of the National Magazine Company, is always searching for new publishing ideas and thought that even though two out of three women in Great Britain have jobs, the whole area of women and careers is muddled. "The dilemma when it comes down to it is that it's so difficult to translate in magazine terms." This may be true, but so is the undeniable fact that a whole generation of women is growing up with a creeping awareness that come rain or shine, come husband or come children, they will probably have to go on working for most of their adult lives and will need some information on how best to do this. Since existing magazines largely ignore this fact of life, they could do with some specialized attention.

"Women and elephants never forget", wrote Dorothy Parker in her poem, "Ballade of Unfortunate Mammals". Even more unfortunate, although she didn't write a poem about it, is that men never remember and are therefore doomed to be forever smiting their foreheads and cursing over a forgotten lunch appointment, business meeting or because they have let their Cornish cottage to one family having previously promised it to another for the selfsame fortnight. There is no proven cure for lack of memory although a course of ginseng tablets is meant to help. I am doubtful that this is the case, since one man, in mid-course, looked at the two capsules in the palm of his hand, scratched his head and asked: "What am I supposed to be taking these for?"

Making an exhibition of themselves



Eye-baller Olive Vincent (below) Museum Investigator for 12 years. The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

I'd rather have the Canaletto in my own home, but Uccello's Hunt in the Forest is the most treasured painting here. We had a telephone call about three years ago from someone who threatened to vandalize it, because he didn't approve of blood sports. I once heard a guide describing the artist's technique - she said, "It's just like darning a sock." What a thing to say! There was a Russian party in that day - they take their culture very seriously.

I remember thinking, I do hope she's not talking to them. People dislike being watched. There was one in particular - soon after I started here I was keeping an eye on him because I kept hearing rustling paper, as if he were unpacking a picnic. He insisted I call the keeper, and told him he bitterly resented it. The keeper explained that I was just doing my job. There's a man who always comes in when he's in Oxford, and over falls to say bello to his ladies, as he calls us. And there's a departmental manager from Debenham's, who comes in at Christmas to see the Flight into Egypt by Joos de Momper.



Forest ranger Jack Gould (above) Attendant for 10 years at Nottingham Castle.

I shouldn't like to have lived here. Too cold. But there's always somebody visiting the Castle, whatever the weather. It's always an outing if you've got people staying, and in the summer it gets very crowded.

People come into the grounds to sunbathe, and into the museum - which is free - to cool off. One of the most popular paintings in our gallery is called Love's Oracle. "Ooh it's beautiful; do you have a print of it?" - It costs them 70p for the print, then probably a tenner to get it framed. You must always be calm and civil in this job, but the longer you're standing here, the more the silly questions try your patience. If you're standing two feet from the tea room, with your elbow practically in the teapot, someone is bound to come up and ask the way to the cafeteria. And of course Robin Hood's on all the time. "Which part of the castle did Robin Hood live in? Where can we see his bows and arrows?" But the most common question is the way to the ladies' lavatory. You'd be surprised how many different ways there are of saying that...

Horror comic John Webb (above) Senior Attendant, Madame Tussaud's. Has been a member of the exhibition staff for 13 years.

People enjoy taking photographs of each other as JK's girlfriend, or as a Cabinet Minister - but looking after people is as much as part of the job as

keeping an eye on them. Children get lost, and in The Battle of Trafalgar, they sometimes need reassuring. It's so realistic, I was once asked what happened to the cannon balls. I said as a joke that they usually landed in the Polytechnic over the road, and two attendants went round picking them up in the evening. People hesitate before going into the Chamber of Horrors: they stand on the stairs next to Hitler, and argue about who's going to go in. They

don't know what to expect, so the Newgate Bell tolling as they enter really makes them jump. I must say, it makes me jump sometimes. Near the lift is a wax figure of our last Senior Attendant. The girls kiss him - you see lipstick on his bald head. There's immortality for you! The staff are always getting prodded, to see if they're real or not. No, I don't mind, you get used to it. But I have to warn the new attendants that it often happens.



Machine minder James Pearce (above) Security Assistant for 15 years at the Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry.

One room is full of machines, activated by buttons. It's called the Science Section, but the children call it the button room. It doesn't matter what the machines do - they just like pressing the buttons. Sometimes we have to rope off a room for lack of staff - like the bicycle room. Then a man came up to me, and said - "My friend has come all the way from Australia to see those bicycles. Poor fellow, I thought, if that's

all he's come all that way for. The public can be demanding - some come in 15 minutes before closing time, wanting to see everything, and some expect you to look after their children and shopping while they look round. When people are appreciative, you notice it. Like old people who come in to see the machines they used to work on, or a group of handicapped people who were so grateful, they all shook my hand. This job is made by the people, though - it's they who make it alive, and keep your enthusiasm going. When they go, the museum goes. Then it's just rooms full of old machinery.

House Husband Anne Beamis (above) Caretaker/Attendant for 3 years at the King's Lynn Museum of Social History.

You can always tell the favourite exhibits by the amount of fingerprints on the glass case. Here, it's the dolls' houses. The kitchen draws a lot of attention, too - children are surprised to hear that water had to be brought to

the house in buckets; and some older people remember their mothers using flat-irons, so they are surprised to see flat-irons in a museum! There are two curious objects that are not labelled, sort of accidentally on purpose. That way people's curiosity is aroused, they come and ask about them, and suddenly they have a whole lot more questions they might ever have asked. Perhaps because this has been a house, it doesn't feel so much like a



Touch judge George Bonilla (above) Museum Warder for 16 years at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Most of the public are very pleasant, although they tend to ask for things that aren't here - like Magna Carta, or the Elgin Marbles. They don't mind their bags being searched - some of them

ask for a body-search too. Not all are so well-behaved. I found some young boys smoking in the Music Gallery - in fact I once found a vicar smoking there. He said there weren't any No Smoking signs. Then there are the compulsive touchers - they like opening drawers and cupboards. During the Fabergé exhibition, an elderly man with a young lady offered me £10 to let him pass the queue. "Haven't you got a price

like everyone else? "he said. Lots of people were trying to queue-dodge by saying they knew the Director - the Director never dreamed he had so many friends. Or else they were friends of Bing Crosby, whose binoculars were in the exhibition. There's a 24-hour patrol in the museum, so I'm often on night-shift. There's supposed to be a ghost in the basement - of Warder Clench, who committed suicide there at the turn of the century.

Most of the public are very pleasant, although they tend to ask for things that aren't here - like Magna Carta, or the Elgin Marbles. They don't mind their bags being searched - some of them

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE. Our food is less beautifully decorated than that there. It's a live in our Arts Council Grant. Our cucumber sandwiches now have to be twice as thin, and my nerves are already in shreds. Look at the trifles! I've had to slash the hundreds-and-thousands by approx. 1%! Smoked salmon sandwiches! - A proud tradition - yet now we use bread made with skimpy 98.6% wholemeal flour! Yer you can still afford to make little margarine baskets for the petits-fours... Yes, but I get it on the National Health: it's Therapy.

THE TIMES DIARY

Bolshy

The Government and the Greater London Council are set to dance an intricate pas de deux over a projected Bolshoi Ballet visit to London next year.

Literary Lady

As Harold Wilson becomes a peer, his wife becomes a judge. She joins the panel for the H. H. Wingate Prize, worth £3,000 to the writer of the book which does most to stimulate interest in Jewish affairs.

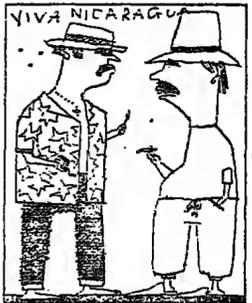
Royal double

This year's Conservation Yearbook, the annual report of the Conservation Foundation, is to be published soon with a kind of double 'royal warrant': a foreword by Prince Philip and a speech delivered recently to launch the UK Conservation Strategy by Prince Charles.

Ale and farewell

What is happening to London's pubs? It reminds me of the blitz of the Sixties and early Seventies, when not even the most venerable local was safe from trendy interior designers with a lust for plastic fittings and keg beer where once mahogany and hand pumps had ruled.

BARRY FANTONI



'Things must be bad, amigo. I think I just saw Max Hastings'

Voices off

So many Americans post taped messages to President Reagan at the White House that an office of chief tape reviewer to the President has been created. Alice Reilly, in other life a concert pianist, has the thankless task of weeding out the very few recorded messages the President might actually want to hear something of.

British Birds magazine has officially closed its correspondence on the derivation of the word 'twit' after a letter from R. E. Emmett, who claims to have coined the word with friend in the mid-Fifties to describe the behaviour of Howard Meadhurst, a well-known birdwatcher who used to tremble and shiver with excitement when on the trail of a rare bird.

Lebanon: is anarchy the aim?

Robert Fisk in Beirut explains why the mutual slaughter of Druze and Christian could serve the interests of both Syria and the Israelis

The young officers of C Squadron, the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, stood by the low roof parapet of the British headquarters outside Beirut, sipping glasses of rum punch and enjoying the evening show.



Treatment for a wounded Christian released by the Druze in a recent prisoner exchange.

Over in the darkened cove to our right, the Israeli tank crews watched in silence. Only late in the evening, after almost four hours of anarchy in the area which they are meant to control, did they fire off a few rounds. The Chouf thereupon closed down for the night.

This dreadful spectacle is now being watched with ever increasing attention by all the armies in Lebanon: by the Lebanese who will have to enter the mountains when the Israelis leave; by the Americans and French and Italians and British who will have to support them; the Syrians who have armed many of the Druze militia and are fuelling the battles; by the Israelis who armed the Phalangists and are doing so little to prevent the conflict.

Syria for one intends to make sure it is a high one. She has poured Katyusha rocket launchers into the Chouf for the Druze gunmen and has encouraged the proposterous Walid Jumblatt to set up a National Salvation Front with two other satrap Lebanese politicians in order to break Gemayel's prestige and wreck the Americans plans for foreign troop withdrawals from Lebanon.

Syria is also planting the seeds of future civil chaos in Lebanon, organizing Lebanese gangsters into militias and introducing more Libyan troops and Iranian revolutionary guards - of all people - into the country. Syria will not withdraw her own troops. If the Chouf burns nightly for the next few months, its glow will illuminate no biffed faces in Damascus.

But Syria is not alone in her disgrace. Up in the Chouf itself, the Israelis have virtually abdicated responsibility for the mutual slaughter of Druze and Christian. A Druze leader the other day claimed that he encouraged the moral conscience should force us to stay here until peace is restored. An Israeli reservist major said last week: "He said we have to wait until a new National Covenant has been worked out that prevents Phalangist domination. But it's got nothing to do with moral conscience. It isn't our job to sort out these centuries-old quarrels."

This is true - but it is not the whole truth. The Druze-Christian conflict has indeed simmered on ever since the Druze massacred 10,000 Maronites in 1968, but until the Israeli army arrived with their heavily armed Phalangist allies in the Chouf last summer, there had been no wholesale civil war in the area for many years.

Now, for the 400,000 people who live in these 200 square miles of mountains and valleys, life has become a nightmare, as one incident that occurred not long ago near Deir el Qamar illustrates. Christians kidnaped Druze motorists from their cars. They selected 15 young men, separated them from their wives and children, and took them to an old bridge over a rocky gorge.

There, a man systematically plunged a 2ft butcher's knife into each one's body and the corpses were thrown on to the rocks below. The knife just missed one man's heart and he survived because the bodies of the others cushioned his fall. He thus survived to tell the tale. The Druze, needless to say, are dispatching Christian captives with equal savagery.

All these incidents are occurring in an area which - as the maps issued to the press by the Israeli army always state - falls under Israeli control. The armies have a duty to protect the civilians in their area of occupation. Occasionally, the Israelis arrange an exchange of hostages but it would take more than their 1,500 troops in the Chouf to bring law and order to the mountains. So they have abandoned any attempt to do so. Indeed, just after Christian gunmen had tried to kidnap a colleague, a woman passenger and myself on the main Damascus highway recently, an Israeli patrol drove past without even asking the gunmen who they were. The Israelis talk daily about the need to stamp out terrorism: yet the Chouf is packed with terrorists and they are doing nothing about it.

Little wonder therefore that Lebanese ministers - and a few American diplomats based in Beirut - privately voice their suspicion that the Israelis want the anarchy to continue. If it does, the Lebanese army may be unable to control the mountains, thus proving that southern Lebanon should remain in Israeli hands.

Why, for example are the Israelis permitting Syrian 122mm guns to pass through their lines and reach the Druze? The Lebanese are wondering whether Israel now wants to abandon the Phalangist and compete with Syria to set up a Druze mini-state that will act as a buffer zone north of the Awali River.

The argument contains a curious irony since the Syrians certainly do want the anarchy to go on. If Mr Gemayel's government fails in its duties and collapses, America's credibility will collapse with it and US Marines will inevitably be drawn into the subsequent fighting. Increased US involvement in Lebanon may - according to the Lebanese - be an aspiration of both Syria and Israel, though for different reasons.

Even without the Chouf, however, there is likely to be no respite for Israel. Like the Syrians, Israel has armed Lebanese gangsters in her area of occupation and turned them into militias. The Shia military now operating on Israel's behalf is becoming increasingly nervous lest it be cast aside like the Phalange.

Perhaps this is why there are now as many Israeli gunnies - Shin Beth agents and plainclothes military intelligence men - to be seen on the roads of southern Lebanon as there are Syrian gunmen - secret servicemen from Damascus and 'Mohabarrat' agents - in eastern and northern Lebanon.

Even the military withdrawal agreement - the so-called 'normalization of relations' pact with Lebanon which Israel now proclaims - has brought the Israelis no real comfort. President Gemayel has not signed the treaty and so far the Lebanese authorities have shown their gratitude by prosecuting merchants who sell Israeli fruit and by banning The Jerusalem Post in Beirut. Last week, almost incredibly, Katyusha rockets fell again in north Galilee, on the land which Israel's invasion was meant to protect forever. They were fired from southern Lebanon.

In the end, both Israel and Syria will probably conclude that their military adventures in Lebanon have brought them nothing but grief. Syria may appear to have the advantage at the moment, but she has few Arab allies and her alliance with the Soviet Union remains secure only so long as the superpowers maintain such poor relations with each other. An agreement on nuclear arms or an Andropov-Reagan summit would quickly diminish Syria's strategic and political demands in Lebanon.

The real loser is likely to be the United States, which now supports a city state and pretends it is a country. Her withdrawal plans are in pieces, relations with the Arabs are at their lowest point in recent years, her leverage over Israel reduced still further. The PLO's arcane rejection of the Reagan peace plan has destroyed any chance of a Palestinian settlement in the near future. The Americans are locked into Lebanon as surely as all the other armies which so blithely came here.

Robert McFarlane, Mr Reagan's new envoy, will be in Beirut soon to survey the ruins of the city. He will also be able to observe the ruins of his own country's Middle East policy.



Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, encouraged and armed by the Syrians to break the prestige of President Gemayel (right) and wreck the American plans for foreign troop withdrawals.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Show me that nuclear woe

Not long ago, I drew pointed attention to a great lie that provides much of the foundation for the organized advocacy of unilateral nuclear disarmament by the West: the claim that because unlimited nuclear war would be a catastrophe without parallel, therefore the best way of avoiding the catastrophe is for our side to disarm alone. The lie resides not in the claim, which I believe is mistaken but can be argued; it is in the "therefore", for the whole thrust of the unilateralist movement is to suggest that the horrors of nuclear war themselves prove the case for western defencelessness. The logical bias between the two halves of the argument is as plain to the unilateralists as it is to me, but propaganda and veracity have rarely shared a bed, and this instance is no exception.

There are, however, two more lies that poison the wells of the nuclear argument. One is the constant suggestion as impudent as it is mendacious, that only those who advocate unilateral nuclear disarmament want peace. The very word "peace" has been stolen from its honourable place in the language and used to suggest that those who believe in peace may be more easily and safely secured by strength are not really seeking peace at all; indeed, much of the time the disarmers go further, and use of themselves the word "anti-war", with the clear implication that those who reject the peace are "pro-war". But it is the last part of the Triad of Untruth that concerns me today, particularly since it is the part that has been least remarked and least commented upon, though its exposure and rebuke are no less important than in the case of the two other suggestions.

I think it will be widely agreed that a nuclear war would not be much fun ("My dear, the noise - and the people"). Indeed, so little fun would it be that at first glance there is nothing very surprising in the suggestion that contemplation of the dangers is attended on all hands by great gloom and fear, and leaves those doing the contemplating wan and wrinkled, with a tendency to burst into tears if somebody slams a

door. The shadow cast by the bomb is so dark and sinister that it disturbs the mind, paralyses the will, deadens the feelings and leads inevitably to aimlessness, social unrest and a constant increase in the incidence of crime, divorce, unemployment and herpes. The nation, obsessed by its impending fate, is mindful every time it puts its Sunday leg of lamb in the oven that it may shortly be badly overcooked itself. Conversation deals with nothing else, and the unbroken silence of an evening in every pub in the land, as unhappy patrons stare into their glasses and think upon their end, bears eloquent witness to the way in which thoughts of nuclear annihilation now occupy attention to the exclusion of all other subjects from the ball to the football pools.

It will be at once apparent that my account is exaggerated. What may not be so readily understood is that even a less extravagantly worded account of the situation would be equally baseless. Yet it is part of the case made by those who advocate nuclear disarmament by our side alone (those urging unilateral disarmament on the Soviet Union are for some reason not numerous in these parts, and their demonstrations rarely if ever make difficulties for the traffic) that the effect of the very existence of the bomb is to cause untold misery on all sides.

The truth is that although there is indeed a danger of nuclear war (though not nearly so great as is made out by those in the business of frightening innocent folk for their own ends), and although if such a conflict were to break out the results would indeed be terrible (on this point the frightened hardly need to exaggerate, though they do), nobody actually spends time worrying, or even thinking, about it.

Test your own experience and see whether it does not accord with mine. (Unilateralists, in answering, will be obliged to take a lie-detector test and swear their statements before a commissioner for oaths.) I have discussed matters nuclear with those of every persuasion on the spectrum, from pacifists who would never knowingly harm an insect, let

alone a human being, to advocates of a substantial increase in nuclear arms, and I have yet to meet anyone, however passionate in the cause argued, who shows any sign that his or her life is actually affected by it, that any sleep is lost or meal pushed away untouched, that burglary and wife-beating begin to seem less wrong in view of the likelihood that the world will shortly come to an end.

This, as a matter of fact, is what we would expect, as an analogy will make clear. We all know the facts about road accidents, but we never go about the streets in a state of apprehension, dwelling on the possibilities of being run down, over or into. And that is not because we do not care about our lives, or because we are hardened against feeling in view of our knowledge of the dreadful casualty figures, but because our feelings, and even our subconsciouses, have got better things to do with their time than worry about such dangers, real though they are.

But we can be less subjective. Take those who are most clamorous in advocating nuclear disarmament as the way to Mr Andropov's heart. What is the most striking fact about them all - so striking that it is instantly visible before they have said a word on the subject that concerns them? It is that they are all having the most marvellous time. Indeed, whenever I see the sleek, pompous, wondrously self-satisfied face of Monsieur Kent I watch the television screen waiting for a sign that reads "Do not adjust your set - the sound you hear is His Reverence purring".

Camping at Greenham Common may not be your idea of fun, and it certainly is not mine, but it plainly suits the campers down to the ground, even when the ground is muddy; the whole enterprise is symbolized and summed up by the lady who left the family for a weekend under canvas with the girls, and found the experience so delightful that she never returned to her home. And when we see pictures of the girls on television, rain or shine, they are invariably smiling, and frequently dancing, to boot.

(The Aldermaston March, in the old days, was a wonderful bank holiday outing for the participants, with nothing to be seen but happy faces and nothing to be heard from the winding column but merriment and music.)

As for Mr E. P. Thompson, he has made an entire new life, clearly stimulating and enjoyable, out of urging military weapons upon the West: if all the world's nuclear weapons were to vanish overnight, together with the knowledge of their manufacture, his thoughts would surely turn to self-ending. (No they wouldn't, though he would speedily discover unimaginable dangers in the conventional weapons possessed by Nato in general and Britain in particular.)

Obviously, those whose trade is persuading Britain to disarm have an interest in trying to make our flesh creep, and a further interest in maintaining that our flesh actually is creeping. The dangers and horrors of nuclear war, however, are just as plain to me as they are to the members of CND, yet I do not feel obliged to paint a picture of a nation going mad with worry.

Of course, CND would reply that that is only natural, since I would eagerly welcome a nuclear holocaust, partly because I am a callous and bloodthirsty brute and partly because I have been supplied by the authorities with a lavishly-equipped bomb proof shelter. The truth is otherwise; I know that Britain is not a land of trembling neurotics consumed by ineradicable thoughts of Armageddon, and I think it is important to point out that those who argue along those lines do so falsely. I will not be blackmailed into accepting that the threat of nuclear war means that the only way to ensure that it will not happen is to be weak; I will not be defamed into accepting that we who believe that strength is the best way of avoiding it are not truly seeking peace; and I will not be deceived into accepting the unilateralist case by the baseless claim, because of Britain's nuclear weapons, the country is drowning in terror and despair.

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Anne Sofer

An old-fashioned marriage for Couple of the Month

I have developed a theory about political commentators and it is called the Theory of Wrong Advice. It is distinguishable from the Socialist Theory of the Media Conspiracy in that it promotes the idea that political commentators invariably give wrong advice to an elected government - not intentionally but because they are really no more prescient than the rest of us.

For instance, they encourage the Conservative Party to behave as if Margaret Thatcher were both immortal and inviolable and will get away with murder indefinitely (which is, in the nature of things, unlikely). They are at present advising the Labour Party to reject its own left wing and most of the policies that 90 per cent of its members believe in (which makes about as much sense as telling Napoleon he could have won the battle of Waterloo if only he had sent the French army home).

For the SDP, the advice - only days after the party was founded - was to cut out all the promotion and razzmatazz and get down to detailed policy making (a bad error of timing in retrospect). Now we are being told to jettison serious policy making and sort out our relationship with the Liberals. My gut reaction, as well as the guidance provided by the Theory of Wrong Advice, tells me they have got it exactly the wrong way round. Protracted discussion of our relationship with the Liberals now could create division where none need exist; while the need for fundamental thinking about policies for a post-industrial society is urgent, and is not being done by either of the other political groupings.

However, it looks as if the wrong advice will be needed, after all. The outside world has developed a keen interest in what is going on between us. We have become Couple of the Month and, like all politicians eager for the limelight, we are playing up to it. Our discussions on How Far Can We Go Before Marriage? will interest the media far more than our ideas on the future of the National Health Service. Unfortunately,

So all local groups in both parties are holding meetings and submitting views on the issue. We had our last week. It was an excellent debate, but my heart went out to the member who said at the end: "I came to this meeting with a completely open mind and nobody yet has said anything to change it".

In truth, I suspect that at the grass-roots level in both parties are a majority of people who think the relationship is going swimmingly and feel both harassed and embarrassed by the different pieces of advice being received from various

quarters: on the one hand "This liaison must be regularized!" and on the other "You're young yet! Don't make up your mind too quickly!"

Political allegiance probably has more to do with self-image than it has to do with policies. Why else did not more worthy members of the Labour Party join us when they agreed with every sentence of the Limehouse Declaration? Liberals see their party as the natural home of the radical tradition, the dignity of the individual and of community politics. Social Democrats see themselves as modern European party of the left, with a mission to abolish poverty and challenge the institutionalized inertia of Britain's social, political and industrial life. There is nothing incompatible here. It is the self-image of people, rather than their fundamental political philosophy, that would be damaged by a total merger.

The important debates which both our parties (and indeed the whole nation) will have to have will not divide on strictly party lines. The balance between growth and the environment, the practicalities of the greater devolution of power in which we both believe, the difficult moral issues implied by the continued existence of private health and private education in any mixed Alliance forum in which these issues are discussed I have found both Liberals and Social Democrats on either side of the argument.

But it would be foolish to disparage self-image. Probably the relationship most of us would like to emulate is the sort of contemporary marriage where both partners keep their own surnames, jobs and bank accounts, but are none the less in both a formal and an emotional sense committed to each other. Nobody in the SDP would become just "Mrs Liberal", or even "Mrs Alliance". But we do want the rest of the world to be in no doubt that we are staying together.

What we need is a formula to encapsulate this combination - and for the formalities to be concluded as quickly as possible so that we can get on with the business.

There should be no doubt as to what the business is. In that sense, it should be a thoroughly old-fashioned marriage. In other words, whose chief purpose is procreation. We are in the business of increasing and multiplying, and peopling the nation with the fruit of our Alliance. By the time the registrar comes round we will have worked out what surnames go on the birth certificates.

The author is the SDP member of the GLC and Ilea for Camden, St Pancras North. She is a member of the SDP National Committee.

Gerald Kaufman

Tory torpedos for shipbuilding

Not long ago, Britannia still ruled the waves. As recently as 1962, we were the world's leading shipbuilder. That has changed drastically. Last year Britain was down to a demeaning ninth place internationally, and even this low ranking concealed the humiliating truth that British shipbuilders in 1982 obtained only 1.3 per cent of the world's construction orders.

Shipbuilding in this country has suffered a painful trauma. In the past six years the world's shipbuilding has fallen from \$7,469 to \$2,583 and 9,000 jobs are to go in the next two years. Yards have closed; repairs have contracted almost to vanishing point. Yet since 1979 this industry has received £780m in aid from the Treasury. When the latest massive loss was reported last week by British Shipbuilders, the reaction of the Department of Trade and Industry was to promise yet more money. What is a Tory government doing, handing over such huge sums to a tiny, state-owned, loss-making industry? Do we really need a shipbuilding industry at all?

That we still need ships is incontrovertible. Even today we possess the sixth largest merchant fleet in the world, with most of those countries apparently ahead of us - such as Liberia and Panama - sheltering under flags of convenience and of course we remain an important naval power. Obviously, we must build our own warships. It would be unthinkable to place our battle fleet at the mercy of foreign suppliers.

Our merchant shipowners seem to feel the necessity for a domestic shipbuilding capacity much less keenly. While recently Belgian owners have ordered 94.4 per cent of their own yards, the French 91.8 per cent and Italians 99.4 per cent, it is lamentable that British owners have seen fit to obtain only 47 per cent of their needs from their own country. Even the Central Electricity Generating Board placed an order in Korea not long ago. While such lack of patriotism is to be deplored, does it not harshly indicate that British Shipbuilders merchant division, now with fewer employees than the warship yards, has become a costly irrelevance?

Even if we set aside the melodramatic consideration that a huge merchant fleet unable to renew itself in its own country would become a prisoner of Far Eastern conglomerates, it is undeniable that the peculiar economics of warship construction require the maintenance of a substantial British merchant shipbuilding capacity. Naval work is centred on three big specialist yards, but these cannot alone cope with the Royal Navy's needs, let alone satisfy

the small but still sizeable export trade.

Mixed yards, capable of building both warships and other kinds of vessels, are essential too. Because of the irregular flow of naval orders, these British Shipbuilders' subsidiaries have to provide their yards with other work in order to maintain the labour force and concomitant facilities needed for the naval programme. In brutal fact, merchant shipbuilding subsidizes though it may be by the Department of Trade and Industry, in its turn subsidizes naval shipbuilding and is indispensable to its well-regulated continuance.

That is why the Government's proposals to sell off the naval yards to private owners are industrially illiterate as well as politically spiteful. The statement to the Commons last Thursday by Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State, had originally contained a paragraph worded: "As I have already made clear, however, some parts of BS are profitable. The Government remains firmly committed to privatizing British Shipbuilders' activities as soon as possible, and wherever possible." At the last moment, in the second sentence, the words "British Shipbuilders" were deleted and the word "those" inserted in their place. This almost imperceptible change tellingly revealed the Government's view that only profitable yards should be privatized. The state would be left with the rest, which it could then be excused for closing down, despite the terrifying employment implications for the Lower and Upper Clyde, the Tyne, the Wear and elsewhere.

Yet of course the main difference between the naval yards and the merchant yards is that, while the merchant yards are partly subsidized, the naval yards are wholly subsidized. Every penny they "earn" comes either from the Treasury or from export orders directly dependent on the domestic naval work.

The Government plans to throw merchant shipyard workers on to the scrap heap. Every shipyard minister admit that every shipbuilding nation in the world subsidizes its merchant yards at least as much as Britain does. At the same time, that same Government intends to provide vast subsidies to private owners of naval yards, whose guaranteed profits will be provided not by Mrs Thatcher's god of the market place but by the generous British taxpayer. Our shipbuilding industry, like all others throughout the world, is in a mess caused by the international recession. The Tory solution is to transform it into a uniquely British, impeccably ideological, mess.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester Gorton.

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GOVERNMENT FIAT

Twice since being confirmed in office the Government, in the person of Mr Cecil Parkinson the new Secretary of State for Trade, has intervened to frustrate judicial processes where major matters of private and public interest were involved. The circumstances of these two exceptional interferences are very different from each other, but they have enough in common to suggest that their proximity is not mere coincidence.

In the case of the Stock Exchange and its restrictive practices the Government has effectively halted proceedings before the court by promoting an "out of court settlement". The settlement does not, as might be supposed, take the form of agreement between the parties to the litigation - on the contrary, one of the parties, the director of the Office of Fair Trading, has publicly expressed his dissatisfaction with what has been arranged. The settlement takes the form of a compact between the other party, the Stock Exchange Council, and the minister. This, though it appears to dispose of the matter, will require parliamentary validation, possibly in the form of primary legislation, removing the Stock Exchange from the ambit of the restrictive practices legislation.

The other matter concerns allegations before tribunals in the United States that British Airways and British Caledonian participated in commercial actions encompassing the downfall of Laker in 1982. Contrary to the anti-trust laws contained in the Sherman and Clayton Acts of the United States Congress, here the signature of the minister suffices to exempt his clients. He has ordered those two airlines, by power given him under the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980, not to produce to the United States Department of Justice or to the courts there documents held outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States or to disclose to them any commercial information demanded in those proceedings. Mr Parkinson did not report to Parliament either his order or his reasons for making it. Nor, amazingly, has he been questioned in the Commons about it during the five weeks that have passed since he made the order.

The effect of this order was considered by the Court of Appeal last week in related proceedings. British Airways and British Caledonian had asked for an injunction restraining Laker from pursuing a civil action for damages before the district court of the District of Columbia, invoking United States anti-trust legislation.

The Master of the Rolls explained that an English court should be extremely slow to make litigation abroad inaccessible in cases where there is no domestic tribunal to which recourse can be had. He emphasized that the Court of Appeal in no way questioned the jurisdiction of the American district court: both British airlines

"carry on business sufficiently in the United States to make them amenable to the jurisdiction of its courts". Nor had the English judges any criticism of the methods of doing justice, though different, of their "cousins in law" in the United States. Nor had they any feeling of hostility towards American anti-trust laws or would ever wish to denigrate them.

What caused the Court of Appeal to grant the injunction at the end of the argument was the earlier intervention of the minister. His order to the airlines forbidding them to cooperate with the American court had rendered the case "unratable". Neither could Laker adequately document their charges against the British airlines, nor could the airlines adequately defend themselves.

The Government of course has substantial reasons for deliberately aborting these two sets of proceedings. It is now of the opinion that litigation under the Restrictive Practices Act is not the most suitable way of cleansing the Stock Exchange and fitting it to adapt to fast changing techniques in international financial markets.

There is much in that. But it is the same government, give or take a minister or two, which let the reference stand when it first came into office in 1979 and which has allowed it to go forward for seven years with accumulating costs to the parties of some £1.5 million. Only now does it wind it up. And the substitute the Government has provided - agreement on an outline for self-reform by the Stock Exchange Council without a monitoring agency - is undoubtedly a much less searching examination of practices which may have more to do with the convenience, and profit of the practitioners, than with the maintenance of an efficient and adaptable exchange in stocks and shares purged of artificial expense.

The Government sees its intervention in the Laker case as another round in its resistance to Washington's habit of making extra-territorial application of its commercial law. Parables are drawn with the Administration's purported interference last year in the Russian pipeline contracts. The parallel is not very exact. An international combination in restraint of trade of the kind alleged, of which are price fixing to drive Laker out of business and concerted pressure to block financial rescue, is not easy to pin down territorially. (Within whose jurisdiction does the transatlantic telephone lie?) But the facts alleged certainly have a prominent American dimension.

However, the Government has another leg to stand on. Air services between the United States and the United Kingdom are regulated by a treaty concluded in 1977 known as the Bermuda 2 Agreement. It provides for the mutual arrangement by the two countries' regulatory agencies, of such matters as routes, frequencies

and fares. It also prescribes procedures to be followed in case of disagreement, leading ultimately to arbitration. The British Government claims that by going outside Bermuda 2 and wheeling on its anti-trust laws (the United States Department of Justice cites the two British airlines in its investigation of the Laker collapse before a grand jury) the United States Government is in breach of its treaty obligations.

This is an argument the layman hesitates to enter, unless it be to suggest that there could well be commercial activities of an unlawful kind alleged against foreign airlines in the United States (fraud for instance) that would not be removed from the jurisdiction of the United States courts by any treaty regulating the provision of air services; and that the allegation about combining to block the Laker rescue operation might fall into that category even if the allegation about "predatory fares" might not.

Anyway, however solid the Government's ground may be for seeking to exempt the two British airlines from these anti-trust proceedings and the enormous penalties they might impose, and however important success in that endeavour may be for the Government's plans for the early privatization of British Airways, the upshot is that application of the free world's most effective measures against restraint of competition is partially frustrated in respect of one of the free world's least openly competitive international businesses.

There is irony in this recital. This is a government that is fully alive to the benefits of competition and to the primary role that market forces must play in the economies of nations. Yet here it is intervening both domestically and abroad to call off the agencies that enforce the laws explicitly enacted to vindicate those principles and promote the relevant practices.

These are ministers, too, who are the sworn opponents of "big government", of the assumption of ever-wider powers by the central political organs of the state, and of the perpetual intervention by executive government in the affairs of individuals and autonomous public agencies. Yet here they are using their executive authority to interrupt judicial process. The same tendency towards the aggrandizement of central authority is also seen in the Government's itch to decide the rate levels for particular and perhaps all local councils, and the speed with which it has nominated itself to become next controller of London's regional public transport system.

None of these actions is out of order, each with justification attached, yet all jar with the account the Government's apologists give of its principles and purposes. They contribute to the impression of fading coherence that has been noted in Mrs Thatcher's administration since it was confirmed in June.

THE OVER-VALUED DOLLAR

The United States of America is now running the biggest budget and balance-of-payments deficits in history. The budget deficit, which may approach \$225,000m this year, has already received a great deal of comment. The imbalance on America's international payments had until recently been relatively small and has therefore attracted less attention, but there are signs that this is changing.

On Friday it was announced that the American trade deficit was \$4,960m in June, compared to \$6,910m in May. In other words, the trade deficit is now running at an annual rate of at least \$60,000m. The prospect is for further deterioration. With economic recovery gathering pace, companies will need to rebuild their stocks of raw materials and consumers will step up their demand for foreign products. The United States Commerce Secretary has frankly acknowledged that the trade deficit "could reach \$100,000m next year" if present trends continue.

The current account position will be better because of a surplus on invisibles which may amount to \$30,000m. But it will still be on an unprecedented scale. The largest current account deficits recorded were under \$15,000m in 1977 and 1978. The prospect for the rest of 1983 and 1984 is a figure that will be several times greater. It is not wild to suggest that the current account deficit will exceed \$50,000m, although the OECD in its most recent *Economic Outlook* put forward a forecast of \$37,500m.

Such numbers are vast and, in the long run, unsustainable. The nation which is supposed to act as the guardian of the international financial system cannot indefinitely run payments deficits of this size and expect the dollar to retain a reserve currency role. But, for the moment, there is widespread complacency about the balance-of-payments outlook. The reason is that the dollar, far from suffering speculative attacks on the foreign exchanges, remains an extremely strong currency.

The dollar's apparent defiance of economic logic calls for an explanation. It is a commonplace that a country with a large current account deficit should have a weak currency. There is no doubt that this simple principle applies very effectively to France, Italy and dozens of smaller deficit nations around the world. But it does not seem to work with the United States. The American deficit next year will be at least five times the size of the French, but the dollar is at the top of the foreign exchanges' popularity list while the franc is near the bottom.

The point is that the American current account deficit has been outweighed - at least, until now - by heavy capital account flows. Money is sent to the United States as a haven from political risk and invested in the dollar because it is regarded as a secure store of value. The capital flows are being given further encouragement by the high level of dollar interest rates. Indeed, there is a general view that interest rates may move up in

the next few weeks to counter above-target money supply growth. A major background influence behind the monetary difficulties is the big budget deficit.

But short-run dollar appreciation can only aggravate the long-run adjustment problem. By making American exports even more uncompetitive on world markets, a higher dollar today implies an even larger current account deficit in a year's time. The accumulation of dollar assets in foreign hands is fine while it is proceeding, but in due course the United States will have to pay increased interest and dividends to overseas investors and these payments will be another debit item on the current account.

At some stage the capital inflows will slow down and may even be reversed. No one can say when this will happen. But it is certain that the longer the day of judgment is deferred, the harsher the judgment will be.

Fifty years ago, when President Roosevelt and his Treasury Secretary, Morgenthau, were manipulating the gold price from day to day, Keynes described American policy as "a gold standard on the booze". Today we have a grossly overvalued dollar, record real interest rates, the largest budget deficit ever known and the prospect of a current account shortfall which is a multiple of the worst previously registered by any nation. The combination may fairly be described as the dollar standard on the booze.

Mounting tension in Nicaragua

From Mr Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North (Labour) and others

Sir, It is with grave concern that we witness the recent escalation of tension in Central America and the dispatching by President Reagan of a task force of eight carriers, with 6,000 troops and some 70 aircraft, to force the same size as that sent to the Falklands.

This obvious intention to seek a military rather than a peaceful solution for the area is to be condemned. The pressure (verbal, economic and military) on Nicaragua has increased since President Reagan took office and during this year has escalated dramatically. The peace moves by the Contadora group of countries and the six-point peace plan put forward by Nicaragua show a flexibility and a readiness to accept a peaceful solution. The United States had insisted that any negotiations be multilateral. Nicaragua has now agreed.

Are we to see once again the Reagan Administration search for some other pretext to continue its attacks against Nicaragua? For so long we were told that the aggressive policy against Nicaragua was to halt the flow of arms from that country to El Salvador. No convincing proof has ever been exhibited to back up this claim that this flow of arms exists, even though the US has used the most sophisticated techniques available (ships, planes, tracking stations). Now we are told that this would not be sufficient and that President Reagan sees little hope of a satisfactory solution while the current government remains in power.

It is this Government that over the past four years has tackled the severe social problems of Nicaragua: the injustices and inequalities so prevalent in the area. Programmes of land reform, health, education, and housing have been initiated. The standard of living has improved. All this has been achieved despite the economic pressure used by President Reagan in cutting direct government loans and vetoing Nicaraguan requests in international banking circles.

As tension mounts, there has been little or no serious debate of Nicaragua's peace plan: only President Reagan's reaction to it. For people who have suffered US occupation in the past and a barbarous dictatorship of the Somoza family for more than 50 years, it is our responsibility to help them find a peaceful solution to the current crisis and raise our voices on their behalf against the obvious war of attrition of President Reagan.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY CORBYN, TOMMY DUNNE, ROYAL HOOPER, STUART HOLLAND, JOHN DAVIES, JOHN HILL, BOBIE JAY, MICHAEL PLANNING, JOHN SMITH, MICHAEL WEAVER, HARRY GORDON
The Cooperative Hall,
129 Seven Sisters Road, N7,
July 29.

A defective term

From the Reverend Edward Yarnold, SJ

Sir, Richard Harries (article, July 23) speaks kindly of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission's "remarkable achievements". But he fails to understand one aspect of the commission's work. If he thinks that it has simply passed the issue of infallibility on to its successor, being content to replace the contentious term "infallibility" by "indefectibility" - especially when the latter quality is understood, as by Professor King, as if it were that of a boxer who gets a hammering in every round but is miraculously on his feet at the final bell.

ARCIC was not engaged in semantic juggling; it tried in its usual way to identify the point at issue and to establish the extent to which the two churches are in agreement over it.

The commission took the issue to be the way in which the Holy Spirit uses human means to maintain the Church in the truth of the Gospel. It believed that there was a large amount of agreement between the two churches concerning the part the universal promise would play in this process, among other human means.

The churches have now to decide whether the commission's estimate of the agreement is accurate. The ball is in their court, rather than in that of ARCIC.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD YARNOLD,
Campion Hall,
Oxford,
July 23.

Vacation village

From Mr Frank Hooley

Sir, The reply (Cmd 8979) by the Government to the report by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs about the building of an airport on Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands should not be the end of the matter. It should rather be the beginning of a thorough investigation into the administration and development of this small British dependency.

The Government's reply sheds no light at all on the mystery as to why Club Med, though bound by a legal contract, failed to build its vacation village by the due date of December 31, 1982, yet foreign speculators apparently found it well worth while to invest \$13m in the tiny island of Providenciales, presumably because of the construction of an international airport there (paid for with your money and mine).

The Government claim that as a result of the airport project budgetary aid to the TCI will be substantially reduced. However, they have already lost two years' revenue from the Club Med village (even if it is eventually completed by December 31, 1984, and I remain

Consumers' view of energy profits

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, I would like to support Lady Burton's letter (July 29) about the profits of the gas industry by drawing attention to the comparable position for electricity consumers. This will become clear to all concerned when the industry's accounts are published on Thursday.

In real terms, electricity prices have risen by 50 per cent since 1974. In the last financial year, the London Electricity Board has made a clear surplus of nearly £23 million over and above the financial target set by the Government. LEB has achieved this unprecedented result, in part because inflation was lower than expected during the year, and in part because it improved the cost-effectiveness of its own operating performance.

At its meeting held on June 16, the London Electricity Consultative Council welcomed the LEB's constancy of its operating costs, and formally recommended the Board to repay the excess surplus to consumers. It was clear to the Council that they had been required to pay more for their electricity in 1982/83 than was necessary for the Board to meet its statutory duties and the Government's target. When the Board met on June 28 to consider the recommendation, it was invited to endorse a chief officer's report which recited reasons as to why the money should not be given back.

SDP constitution

From Mr Edward Lyons, QC

Sir, As SDP legal affairs spokesman in the last Parliament I was interested in the talk of joint selection of candidates by the SDP and Liberal parties for the European elections in 1984.

Under the SDP constitution the national committee has no power to order such a process. Its relevant powers are limited to ordering SDP area parties not to put up candidates (so a Liberal has a clear field) and to recommending SDP voters to vote for a candidate of another party with similar principles.

Further, a cardinal principle of the constitution is "one member, one vote" - a principle frequently reasserted by the requirement to hold a postal ballot, e.g. for president, leader, nationally elected members of the national committee and area party officers and committees.

Helicopter tragedy

From Mrs Jane E. S. Fortin

Sir, The Scilly Isles helicopter disaster, which killed 20 people, including my sister and her family (the Nye family), occurred on July 16. It was not until nearly two weeks later, on July 28, that we received an letter of sympathy from British Airways. Their failure to write sooner was, at the very least, insensitive.

The treasure-seekers

From Mr Tim Tatton-Brown

Sir, The Editor of *Current Archaeology* (July 23) is correct in saying that we must reduce the over-inflated value of antiquities, increasingly bought as a hedge against inflation.

"Thanks to the 'pioneering work' of unscrupulous men like Duveen (whose ill-gotten gains ironically paid for the gallery in the British Museum that now houses the Elgin/Parthenon Marbles), antiquities all over the world are being looted from archaeological sites and then sold for ridiculous prices at Sotheby's, Christie's, etc. This means that in Britain more and more money had to be found for our

Tour ban anomalies

From Mr Donald Woods

Sir, Mr N. M. Forster (July 27) asserts that South Africa has a free press. It has not. South African newspapers have to contend with more than 200 legislative restrictions. During my editorship the state also imposed three of my reporters without any semblance of trial proceedings.

And although I have now been out of South Africa for five years, it would still be a criminal offence for any South African newspaper to print anything I say or write on any subject, even if it were a commendation of the Surrey County Cricket Club for repairing the wall of the Oval.

If that is Mr Forster's idea of a free press he is evaluating it against curious criteria.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD WOODS
PO Box 130A,
Surbiton,
Surrey.

Parental authority and the pill

From Mr Ian S. P. Barker

Sir, The recent case of Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority (Law Report, July 27) has brought into question the problem of parental control over the medical treatment of their children.

I am sure that Mrs Gillick has the best of motives in trying to assert her control as a parent, but I would suggest that full parental authority is not desirable in relation to medical treatment.

Such authority would be based on the misconception that all parents are as concerned for the welfare of their children as Mrs Gillick. Lord Devlin (July 29) seems to desire a greater degree of parental control and quotes Lord Radcliffe as saying, in relation to public policy, "there are some things the law will not stand for". Is it possible that the law would stand for the refusal by parents, perhaps on religious grounds, to allow a blood transfusion to a child that might otherwise die?

The cases of Re B (a minor) [1981] 1 WLR 1421 and Re D (a minor) [1976] 1 All ER 326 illustrate the danger of allowing absolute parental control over children. In the former case, the parents of a child suffering from Down's Syndrome refused to give consent to a life-saving operation on the child. Fortunately, the child was made a ward of court, and so the operation was performed. If full parental authority had been accepted in the case of Re D, a slightly retarded girl of eleven years would have been sterilised, even though she would eventually have had the intellectual capacity to marry.

Concern and the wish to control are natural, laudable, and desirable, but in terms of medical consent it is vital that these be balanced with the interest of the children, which cannot always be determined by parents.

I respect the concern of Mrs Gillick, but would suggest that there may be hidden dangers in altering the present balance of the law. Yours faithfully,
IAN S. P. BARKER,
17 Benslow Rise,
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire,
July 29.

From Professor A. W. B. Simpson

Sir, Lord Devlin (July 29) hopes that the common law may yet decide whether parents or health authorities are to decide whether to provide those under 16 with the means of sexual promiscuity. He exaggerates the powers of both. Nature provides the means, and the onset of puberty the inclination.

Yours etc.
A. W. B. SIMPSON,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
Darwin College,
The University,
Canterbury,
Kent,
July 29.

First Jewish MP

From Mr Stephen Schick

Sir, The caption under the photograph in *The Times* today (July 27) of the Chief Rabbi, the Home Secretary and Mr Greville Janner, MP, at a luncheon states it was held to celebrate "the 125th anniversary of the election of the first Jewish MP Baron Lionel de Rothschild".

This is not so. Baron Lionel was first elected as a Whig MP for the City of London in August, 1847, but felt unable to take the oath, as required, "on the true faith of a Christian" and was debarred from taking his seat. He was subsequently returned for the City on five different occasions until, in 1858, a campaign inside and outside Parliament succeeded in allowing the House of Commons to modify the oath against the opposition of the Lords. Baron Lionel then sat in the House for 15 years without once speaking publicly.

Queen Victoria refused, on grounds of Baron Lionel's religion, to accept Gladstone's recommendation in 1869 that he be made a peer and the struggle for Jewish parliamentary emancipation was only finally won when his son, Nathaniel, became the first Lord Rothschild in 1885.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SCHICK,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
July 27.

Intimations of mortality

From Mr Arthur Lyall

Sir, I, too, have had to steel myself against the sort of kindness referred to by Mr Latham (July 26), but in different circumstances.

Early in 1977 I bought one of the last models of a small Swedish motorcar to be imported after being made obsolete. The dealer assured me that there would be no trouble about spare parts, adding, "Anyway, this will see you out right".

I am a 1910 model of Mr Latham's generation and, like him, I was unaccompanied. Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR LYALL,
Warmstock House,
Chideock,
Bridport,
Dorset,
July 26.

Lucky dip

From Mrs Jolynn Manson

Sir, I have just had my sheep (one transported, dipped - according to Mrs Ag - instructions - and returned to her field. Cost 25p. Cheap sheep? Yours faithfully,
SHERRY MONSON,
Coes Farm,
Rotherfield,
Sussex,
July 29.

صحة من الأصل

Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 711.2 down 10.2
Gilt: 78.99 down 0.17
All Shares: 445.65 down 22.22

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5210 down 40 pts
IM 4.0250 up 0.01
FF 12.0950 up 0.05

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: base rate 9 1/2%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week 14 1/2%

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): m \$422.25, pm \$422.00, close \$421.25-\$422.00

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interline: Forward Technology Industries, Tozer Lemley & Millbourn (Holdings), Inat Mersey Docks and Harbour Company

ANNUAL MEETINGS

TODAY - The Dominion & General Ins, 3 Albyn Place, Edinburgh (10.15); Norcross, Spencers Wood, Reading (11.00)

Forecasters say manual category faces bigger fall than in 1970s

Part-time work expected to dominate new jobs with 4m unemployed

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The underlying level of jobless will remain above 4 million in the rest of the 1980s with economic growth too sluggish to make any significant dent in the total, according to the Institute for Employment Research in its annual Review of the Economy and Employment.

The government funded Institute, which is based at Warwick University, says new job opportunities until 1990 will be concentrated in part-time work, chiefly the preserve of women, and in white collar occupations such as management, the technology sector and the professions.

The recession has affected part-time work far less than full-time work, according to the Institute, which suggests that the number of part-time employees could increase by more than 300,000 to 5 million plus by the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, the number of women workers will rise by 1 per cent so that 44 per cent of the workforce is likely to be women by the end of the decade.

But the decade, the Institute says, will see a further drop of 1.7 million manual jobs, even bigger than the fall in the 1970s, only partly offset by a gain of nearly 500,000 non-manual jobs.

Total employment in 1990 is expected to be below its level 10 years earlier despite a bigger workforce.

The security industry is the only sector where employment is expected to increase, with a 25 per cent rise from today's 386,000 employees.

The largest job losses are projected for the less skilled workers and non-engineering craftsmen and labourers.

The biggest single growth area for jobs, the Institute says, will be in literary, artistic and sports occupations, where the numbers employed are expected to increase by 26 per cent from the 447,000 employed at the beginning of the decade.

The Institute expects economic growth to average nearly 2 per cent a year between 1982 and 1990 on unchanged government policies.

An average of 3 million people claiming unemployment benefit is expected during the period.

On the recently abandoned basis of counting people registering for work the numbers would be 400,000 higher, while hidden unemployment and those removed from the dole queues by special employment measures takes the total to above 4 million, the Institute claims.

Table with 3 columns: HOW JOBS WILL RISE AND FALL, 1980 '000s, 1980-1990 + or - %

Source: University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research, using Warwick occupational categories.

£20m hypermarket for Odhams site

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation and J Sainsbury have agreed a £20m deal to redevelop the former Odhams printing plant site at Watford.

A hypermarket and a science and technology park are planned for the 18 acre site, and local authority approval is likely within the next few weeks.

Last night Mr Maxwell was unable to comment on the plans, but Henry Ansbacher & Co, the merchant bank advisers to BPC, confirmed that the project was put to the local authority last week and that there are unlikely to be any problems.

News of the deal which will transform the BPC balance sheet, has emerged ahead of tomorrow's closing date for BPC's £13m 11-for-5 share takeover offer for John Waddington, the Monopoly games company. The BPC bid is topped by a rival £15m offer for Waddington by Norton Opax, the lottery ticket company.

BPC bought the loss-making Odhams plant from Reed International in February last December. In the year to March 31 1982, the plant lost £12m, making aggregate losses of £30m at the plant in the 10 years to 1982.

Mr Maxwell announced the closure of the Odhams plant, which employed 1,600 people in May, after discussions with print unions. The workload at the plant has been transferred to



Maxwell: boost for BPC balance sheet

Sun Printers, Odhams's sister company, also in Watford.

As part of the deal with the unions, Mr Maxwell agreed to help soften the redundancy blow by developing a science and technology park and nursery units for industry on the Odhams site.

About 14 acres of the Odhams site is earmarked for a 175,000 square foot Savacentre Hypermarket with car parking space for 1,600 cars. Sainsbury and British Home Stores, which jointly operate the Savacentre hypermarket chain, would pay £1m a year to rent the site, which is in a prime location by the M1 and proposed route for the M25 motorway.

At present, Odhams is valued at only £7.5m in the BPC balance sheet, while the Savacentre development would have an estimated capital value of £20m.

'Teeth' for advertisers' watchdog

By Derek Harris

A crackdown on advertisers who make misleading claims is expected soon, with Sir Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, being given powers to add teeth to Britain's self-regulatory advertising system.

A European Economic Community directive clamping down on misleading advertising claims is expected soon. In Britain, it affects advertisers in media other than television and radio, both of which have statutory controlling bodies.

An advertiser flouting the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), Britain's self-regulatory body for most Press, magazine and poster advertising, would face action by Sir Gordon, probably in the form of a court injunction.

The EEC directive is expected to take effect next year. Action on misleading advertising has been long overdue. The Office of Fair Trading investigated the situation and recommended the introduction of legal back-up powers as long ago as 1978. Then more than two years ago, a Department of Trade working party made similar recommendations.

Home loans 'sending money off target'

By Graham Searjeant

The success of governments measures to promote home ownership is causing the mortgage market to overheat to such a degree that the effects will spread through the financial system, according to the Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin, published today.

Mr Christopher Johnson, the bank's economic adviser, fears that bank base rates may have to go up by the autumn as competition for deposits between banks and building societies intensifies.

In this event, "the monetary targets will continue to be exceeded as deposits rise. The Government's best policy would be to admit that they have been set too low to meet the combined requirements of industry and home ownership."

About 1 million people could borrow an extra £15bn or more this year in net new mortgage advances, with building societies supplying about £11bn and the banks £3bn. But this 20 per cent rise will not stave off mortgage queues forming.

Mr Johnson sees demand being fuelled by 200,000 council tenants exercising the right to

buy and by people taking advantage of this year's increase in the ceiling for tax relief on mortgages, as well as rising real disposable incomes for those in work.

On the basis of the increases so far reported by building societies, although disputed elsewhere, house prices may rise by about 13 per cent.

This rise in relative house prices is stimulating extra demand.

If this happens, mortgages will take more than the whole increase in bank credit to the rest of the economy at a time when industry's needs are increasing.

The banks, says Lloyds, may therefore get into an auction for deposits with building societies. From September, some societies will introduce two-year term shares returning the equivalent of 12.9 per cent before tax.

In order not to run down their liquidity even more, the societies will need to raise an extra £6bn in deposits during the second half of the year.

Co-ops agree to merge in South-east

By Our Commercial Editor

A merger has been agreed in principle which should create a new South East co-operative society with a £100m turnover that would put it among the top ten retail co-ops.

But it comes as problems are mounting in the dash to stem increasing losses in the Co-op by persuading retail societies to merge into bigger units. The Co-operative Union, the Co-operative movement's key advisory body, is putting new pressure on a number of ailing societies which have hauled at prospective mergers.

Due to merge in the South East, subject to approval by members' meetings, are the Croydon-based South Suburban Co-operative Society and the Invicta Co-operative Society with headquarters at Dartford, Kent.

Both societies, like Royal Arsenal which is the other big co-op in the highly competitive South-east area, have been running into mounting losses.

The loss-making Barrow in Furness Co-operative Society in West Cumberland has narrowly voted down a merger with the profitable Cumbrian society based in Carlisle. There is mounting anxiety that at its present rate of losses Barrow within two years could be nearing the end of its resources.

Check on offices

By Philip Robinson

A detailed study which could result in tighter policing of Britain's 900,000 registered companies, has been ordered by Mr Alex Fletcher, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs.

The work of Companies Registration offices in Cardiff, London and Edinburgh will be examined to see if they could be hived off from the Department of Trade. It could mean that

additional resources would be made available. Companies Registration offices keep a record of all company information which is required to be filed by Company Law.

It is the job of the Registrar of Companies to pursue those which break the law by not filing their report and account or changes of shareholders and directors within the specified time.

Officers hit at P&O bid

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Merchant navy officers are urging the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block the attempt by Trafalgar House, owner of Cunard line, to take over Peninsular Orient Steam Navigation Co.

The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association opposes the merger on trading, employment and defence grounds, arguing that it would

probably accelerate the decline in ships flying the British flag. "We are not convinced that an overall advantage would flow from a takeover by Trafalgar House; that the employment prospects of our members in both companies would be secured; that new employment opportunities would be created; or that British registered tonnage would not be reduced," says the association.

The Nigerian report is available from SIIPO, Almack House, 26/28 King Street, London SW1Y 6QW, price £4.95 inc p&p.

International trade

How to avoid the Banjo

By John Lawless

Goods that fail to fight their way through Nigeria's import bureaucracy end up at the monthly "Banjo" - a public auction which can take on carnival proportions.

The simplification of International Trade Procedures Board is so concerned about the hazards facing sellers in Nigeria that it has produced its first handbook devoted to one market.

"It is a horrifying document," said Mr Gordon Wilson, chairman of the Tropical Africa Trade Advisory Group. "Its 22 pages continually emphasize that not the slightest error in documentation is allowed."

British exports to Nigeria last year were worth £1.25bn. But in the first five months this year, they were worth only £341m as falling demand for oil hit the country's exchange reserves.

The Nigerian Government has finally been forced to act against forgeries and counterfeit documents being used by importers to keep their flow of goods going (and to cheat

foreign suppliers out of several million pounds' worth of goods each year).

It has published a list of agencies which are no longer allowed M-forms. Without these documents, buyers cannot get an allocation of foreign exchange - but UK exporters now report that they are even receiving forged M-forms.

The Nigerian report is available from SIIPO, Almack House, 26/28 King Street, London SW1Y 6QW, price £4.95 inc p&p.

Building an airport in the atrocious winter weather of the South Atlantic is more appealing than it sounds.

In the three weeks since a contract was placed for a new Falklands airport, more than 5,000 labourers, carpenters, quantity surveyors and other building industry workers have applied for jobs.

The Laing-Mowlem-Amey Roadstone consortium has opened a recruitment office in Sturbiton to handle the demand for the 1,000 jobs available

from this autumn onwards, which will rise to 1,400 when work is at its peak.

It declines to say how much it is paying to induce workers away from their families for months at a time, but acknowledges that British unemployment is a big factor.

The £215m overall contract signals a mini-sales boom for exporters of many more things than concrete-handling equipment and airport machinery.

In true Klondike-style, a whole township is being brought in - as the first of many contracts to be placed over the next few weeks demonstrates.

The £6m order received by Wysepian, the Humber-based subsidiary of P&O, calls for everything from a chapel, fire station and bakery through to bars, video games, pool tables and table tennis balls.

City Editor's Comment Interest rates need an autumn break

British manufacturers, poised for modest recovery this year, must be viewing the latest antics in the world currency markets with gloom and trepidation.

The rocketing dollar and the fears of higher American interest rates that propel it, threaten to ensure that revival of the world's economy - outside the US is a pretty feeble affair.

In Europe, where the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has already predicted an autumn too show to reverse inexorably rising unemployment, the strong dollar inhibits moves to lower interest rates, dampens growth and discourages the pick-up in investments which is crucial if the recovery is to be sustained beyond next year.

In the Third World, swelling dollar debt mountains will prolong economic retrenchment and aggravate the risks of default and financial collapse which could push the world into a decade of depression.

The prospect of only sluggish growth of world output and trade has worsened by protectionist moves in the United States, prompted by the havoc wreaked on American industry by the sky-high dollar. And all this means fewer opportunities for British exporters and heightens the international scramble for our domestic markets.

But industry now faces a second crippling handicap in the struggle for survival. Booyed once again by its petrocurrency status, the pound is being pulled along in the slipstream of the dollar to grossly uncompetitive levels against the currencies of Europe, notably the Deutschmark.

The last time the pound went above DM4 - in the run-up to the general election - the British authorities were sufficiently concerned to make a cut in

interest rates a top priority for the new Conservative Government.

But this time the appropriate response is far less obvious. The adverse reaction of the foreign exchange markets to the half point cut in June demonstrated only too clearly how easily confidence in the currency can be undermined if traders believe the authorities want sterling lower.

The Government cannot risk a currency collapse - which would imperil its objectives on inflation. And even if a rout were avoided, further depreciation against the dollar, where the pound is already weak and slipping, threatens to push up the costs of imported fuel now and raw materials that industry needs to stoke production.

Domestic monetary affairs, moreover, clearly point away from interest rate cuts. The money supply is racing ahead, due not simply to above-target government borrowing (which is fairly inoperative to interest rate changes) but to a fresh surge in bank lending (which is not).

To cut interest rates in these conditions would be tantamount to telling the markets that the Government no longer cared about monetary growth - a move calculated to raise inflationary fears and damage the Government's ability to sell debts.

The Prime Minister is reported to be anxious to get interest rates down. British industry will be squarely behind her. But with financial markets in a dither a judicious delay, at least until the autumn, when the domestic money figures may look better, would be advisable.

Industry will not be well served by a repetition of the events of last winter when the Government forced the pace on interest rate cuts, only to see them wiped out within weeks by the pound's fall from grace.

Advertisement for Saudi International Bank (AL-BANK AL-SAUDI AL-ALAMI LIMITED) featuring a library stamp and an extract from an interim balance sheet.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK USM Review

Statham hopes to score hat trick

The Stockbroking firm Statham Duff Stoop has wasted little time in celebrating the successful debut of Metal Sciences last week before announcing another two additions to the Unlisted Securities Market.

PH is split into two separate subsidiaries. Taylor Pearl Promotions and Taylor Pearl Travel, an AETA travel agent. According to Statham, PH, through its Travelcash package, is available for an off-the-shelf promotion capable of adapting to a clients' needs at short notice.

Unlisted Securities

Table with columns: Capitalisation, Company, Price last on Friday, Change on Friday, Gross Div. yield, Dividend yield, P/E. Lists various companies like A & I Security, Adia Jewels, Adria Leisure, etc.

Advertisement for J.P. Morgan International Capital N.V. featuring U.S. \$150,000,000 in 11% Guaranteed Notes Due 1990 and Warrants to Purchase U.S. \$150,000,000 10% Guaranteed Notes Due 1990.

Depression over M1 grips market

The financial markets in the United States were showing signs of acute nervous exhaustion, on Friday night. Bonds had had a dismal week, as prices had been progressively reduced on the expectation of rising inflation.

Financiering Maatschappij d'Oranjeboom BV

US \$75,000,000 11% per cent. Guaranteed Bonds 1991. Allied-Lyons PLC. The Company has the right to accept payment of the final instalment in respect of any Bond which has not been forfeited at any time after the due date of payment.

Evode Group p.l.c. Allotment of £3,979,248 8 per cent. Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 2003/2008.

Table of Eurobonds prices (yields and premiums) for various countries and maturities.

Table of Floating Rate Notes with columns for Issuer, Maturity, Price, Yield.

Table of Base Lending Rates for various banks and currencies.

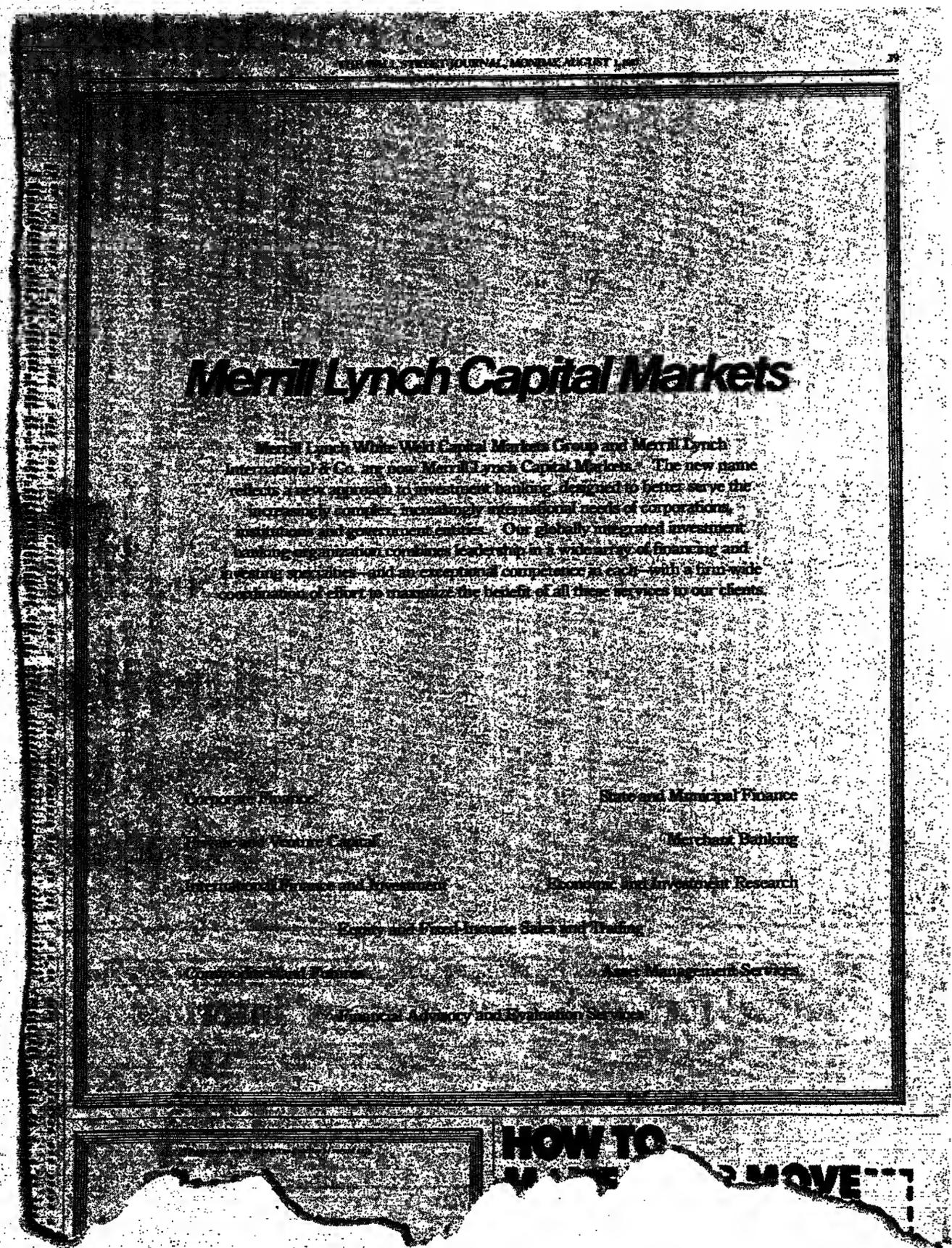
Advertisement for Norwest Holst Group, a subsidiary of Dunham Mount Limited, highlighting 'Another year of substantial achievement'.

Advertisement for Evode Group p.l.c. Allotment of £3,979,248 8 per cent. Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 2003/2008.

Advertisement for Norwest Holst Group, a subsidiary of Dunham Mount Limited, highlighting 'Another year of substantial achievement'.

Advertisement for Norwest Holst Group, a subsidiary of Dunham Mount Limited, highlighting 'Another year of substantial achievement'.

Today, the most familiar name in "tombstones" makes its first appearance.



Merrill Lynch Capital Markets

Merrill Lynch White, Wolf Capital Markets Group and Merrill Lynch International & Co. are now Merrill Lynch Capital Markets. The new name reflects a new approach to investment banking, designed to better serve the increasingly complex, increasingly international needs of corporations, institutions and governmental entities. Our globally integrated investment banking organization combines leadership in a wide array of financing and trading specialties—and an exceptional competence in each—with a firm-wide coordination of effort to maximize the benefits of all these services to our clients.

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- State and Municipal Finance
- International Finance Capital
- Merchant Banking
- International Finance and Investment
- Economic and Investment Research
- Equity and Fixed Income Sales and Trading
- Asset Management Services
- Financial Advisory and Administration Services

HOW TO
MOVE

**Merrill Lynch
Capital Markets**

Merrill Lynch

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, Aug 12. Contango Day, Aug 15. Settlement Day, Aug 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes BRITISH FUNDS and MEDICALS.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes DOLLAR STOCKS.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes BANKS AND DISCOUNTS.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E. Includes A - B.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Chgs, Int, Gross Div, Div Yld, P/E.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Mixed forecasts for Barclays' interims

Barclays Bank completes the season of leading clearing bank results with half-year figures on Friday. Brokers' forecasts vary widely with pretax profits of £230m to £250m expected, against £236m last time.

There will also be a first-time contribution of about £4m from International Aeradio, which STC purchased from British Airways in March.

At the same time, STC bought some businesses from its one-time American parent company, International Telephone and Telegraph, and these may have contributed about £750,000.

In the full year, STC could approach pretax profits of £100m, against £61.3m last time.

Thursday also sees half-time results from vacuum cleaners manufacturer Hoover. The restructuring and recovery of Hoover has been such a long haul that few brokers now follow the stock closely.

Nevertheless, in the last month, Hoover shares have risen strongly outperforming the index by about 11 per cent. Brokers suspect that the company has not recovered from its production problems so it may not have fully benefited from the high street boom.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Interest rate worries deepen

The continuing strength of the dollar is likely to occupy pride of place this week in the attention of the financial markets, where worries over the early prospect of higher American interest rates have deepened.

Even though the economic fundamentals point to a lower exchange rate - especially the yawning trade deficit - investors simply cannot ignore the attraction of short-term dollar yields which promise to buoy the dollar as far as the eye can see.

This is bad news for governments in Europe, where recovery is still fragile. They worry it is still fragile. They worry it is still fragile. They worry it is still fragile.

The CBI's latest Industrial Trends Survey, published tomorrow, will be scrutinized for evidence that the recovery is being sustained.

Other indicators released this week include the balance of payments and last year's overseas earnings of the City (today), the July official reserves (Tuesday), June advance energy statistics and housing starts (Wednesday), and final figures on motor vehicle production in June (Friday).

Those who follow the company are expecting it to exceed this by up to £10m, with about 40 per cent of the surplus falling in the first half.

Higher precious metal prices, lower interest rates, less competition and an outstanding performance from the Volkswagen distributorship, have combined to boost profits.

Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn (Holdings), the trader and motor distributor, reports half time figures today amid growing speculation of a bid or a refinancing package.

Delayed full-year results from Acrow, the earth moving equipment group, are expected on Thursday. Brokers expect losses to reach £5m.

Jeremy Warner

How to

سدا من الاصل

ATHLETICS: COE STILL CANNOT FIND HIS FINISHING TOUCH

Cram's confidence leaves Coe's kick in cold storage

Steve Cram gave himself the best possible send-off to the world championships in Helsinki next week but compounded Sebastian Coe's agony by winning the 800 metres in front of his home crowd in Gateshead yesterday.

Coe, the only world record holder, could finish only fourth after promising to sprint fast then struggling down the home straight as he has done in his three 1,500-metre and one-mile defeats in the last six weeks.

Wylie proved invaluable when he overtook everyone in the finishing straight. Wylie was still leading at that point and Coe had started a challenge which was to prove as ineffectual as that in his mile defeat against Steve Scott last week.

Strong words on the British record

Shirley Strong moved closer to world class with her 12.95sec win in the Women's AAA championships, sponsored by Trustee Savings Bank, at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

realize that it is the administrators of her sport who are doing the least to help British women back into world class racing.

Gateshead results

100 METRES: 1. R Brown (GB) 15.55sec; 2. L. Dutton (GB) 15.75sec; 3. J. G. ...



Local hero: Cram (left) beats Coe into fourth place

Mel Latany, of the United States, celebrated his late inclusion in the world championship team as a replacement for the injured Larry Shriver.

GOLF

Pavin gains a first European title

Corey Pavin resisted a strong challenge from Severiano Ballesteros to record his first success in Europe when he returned a final round of 69 in the German Open, sponsored by Lufthansa, on the Cologne course yesterday.

By the end of the previous American had three strokes to spare but it was touch and go until he finished with a flourish by securing a birdie at each of the last two holes.

The Spaniard was denied second place on his own by Tony Johnstone, of Zimbabwe, who had seven birdies in an excellent 66.

He certainly never wavered in the scorching heat as Ballesteros threw down a typical challenge. Pavin helped himself to a couple of birdies on the first four holes on the way to

YACHTING

The German's cup is full at the moment

The German team scored most points of the 15 nations competing for the Admiral's Cup series, sponsored by Champagne Mumm, at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

TENNIS

Mrs Lloyd loses title and record

Pam Shriver scored her first-ever victory over Chris Lloyd in the women's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis tournament in Sydney, 6-2, 6-4.

CYCLING

A 'downfall' for Miss Jones

Four times a national champion in the tandem sprint, Sydenham is showing solo skill for the first time, and he recorded the fastest final 200 metres time of 11.153sec, the preliminary rounds.

IN BRIEF

Scots relay teams to the rescue

Scotland's relay squads stole the limelight, and saved the day for the home country, in a six-nation athletics international at Meadowbank yesterday.

Results from Cowes Week

ROYAL THAMES VS REGATTA: Britisha Scotia 1st, Hampshire 2nd, Devon 3rd, Cornwall 4th, Somerset 5th, Dorset 6th, Devon 7th, Cornwall 8th, Somerset 9th, Devon 10th.

Football

Brazilians to play Hamburg

The Europa champions, Hamburg, are to meet their South American counterparts, Grêmio Porto Alegre, of Brazil, in the World Cup championship final in Tokyo. But the date has yet to be fixed.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN LEAGUE (Friday): Baltimore Orioles 4, New York Yankees 2, Toronto Blue Jays 4, Cleveland Indians 2, Oakland Athletics 3, Chicago White Sox 2, Detroit Tigers 4, Kansas City Royals 1 and 10-1.

HOCKEY

England put defeat in its place

England were beaten 1-0 by the touring Kenyan side on the artificial turf pitch at Bishampton yesterday. The match classified as unofficial, served as a useful exercise for England in preparation for the European championship in Amsterdam from August 18 to 28.

Elimination rules all

Newport (Rhode Island) July 30 (AFP) Australia II stretched its lead in the America's Cup elimination series on Saturday with a victory over another Australian yacht, Challenge 12, Italy's Azimut sponsored by Alfa Romeo, from fifth to second place in the standings with a victory over Canada I, but the scheduled race between France 3 and the third Australian yacht, Advant, never took place.

POLO

Harmony in the rain

Cowdrey Park started five goals up on handicap as home against the Maple Leafs in the final of the Cowdrey Park Challenge Cup yesterday, and in six chukkas, in very wet conditions, lost by nine goals to seven.

ROWING

Maidenhead Eight: 1. Maidenhead Rowing Club 8:15.2; 2. Maidenhead Rowing Club 8:15.2; 3. Maidenhead Rowing Club 8:15.2.

GOLF

TULSA: US Women's Open: 216, J. L. Magee (USA) 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

WATER SKIING

READHURST: International jumping tournament: 1. S. Duvell (GB) 191.1; 2. M. Hazwood (GB) 186.3; 3. G. Thurston (Aus) 185.0.

Olympic team satisfied

After enjoying perfect conditions, the British Olympic yachting team emerged from their base camp at Long Beach on Saturday with as good a set of results as they could have wished for. A first by Bob White and David Campbell-Jones in the Tornados was nearly matched by last year's Soling winner, Chris Law, who led throughout from Dave Carnis, of the United States, only to drop to second when the Torrey Bank.

CANOEING

YESTERDAY: Men's Sprint: K-1 500m (British) 1:58.2; 2. G. O'Connell (Ire) 1:58.5; 3. R. Hayes (Ire) 1:59.0; 4. J. O'Connell (Ire) 1:59.5; 5. J. O'Connell (Ire) 2:00.0.

Jackson and Williams take first place for Britain

The British pair, Stephen Jackson and Alan Williams, took their event in the finals of canoeing world championships in Tampere, Finland yesterday. They came first in the Kayak 10,000 metres with Hungary second and Sweden third.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Youngsters are overwhelmed: The British amateur Rugby League youngsters lost their unbeaten record in the last game of their New Zealand tour when they were beaten 48-10 in the second international at Auckland. The same side gave a brilliant display of fast open rugby before 7,000 spectators to level the series at one- all.

Jenkin to reveal new council spending curbs

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

The Government will announce today what it promises is a solution to high rates and excess council spending.

In what councils see as a major constitutional change which will eventually make Whitehall responsible for all local government, the Government is taking over the power to set council rates and so control their spending.

The White Paper will explain how Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, calls the "primary targets" are to be selected. These are the Labour city councils, including the Greater London Council, and the Inner London Education Authority, held mainly responsible for the consistent overshooting of spending targets.

At present, the Government can penalize high-spending councils by taking away rate support grant but since it cannot control their rates it is powerless to control spending.

Mr Jenkin will be able to decide if a council's spending is "excessive and limit any rise. The new powers will come into effect in April 1985. Government business managers have scheduled the introduction of a Bill based on the White Paper for January.

Later today Mr Jenkin will give English councils a figure for approved spending in 1984-85. He will warn them that performance in meeting these targets will determine whether

their rates are controlled in 1985. The White Paper empowers him, if overspending cannot be pinned on a small number of councils, to resort to a general edict limiting the rates of each and every council.

Although the councils are not wholly in opposition, a formidable lobbying campaign has been launched. Most worrying for the Government is the strength of opinion within the Conservative Association of County Councils, which can muster backbench support in the Commons and impressive numbers in the Lords.

Mr John Lovell, the association chairman, told The Times that he and the other shire county leaders, while remaining enthusiastic supporters of the Government, reject the manifest pledges on capping the rates.

It will be apparent today whether the Government will try to woo shire counties. Many counties acknowledge that they could, if their arms were twisted, trim small amounts off their budgets for 1984-85.

Mr Lovell has spoken of meeting "realistic" targets. But the counties' definition of realism would mean the Government accepting a significant increase in council spending.

Today's targets are likely to be rejected by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the GLC.

Black states bar media based in South Africa

Harare (AFP) - Foreign journalists based in South Africa will be barred - in most cases - from working in any of the six "frontline" black states that oppose South African policies on Namibia and apartheid.

In a statement after a two-day meeting at Kadoma in central Zimbabwe, the information ministers of the six states also declared that any foreign correspondent based outside South Africa but banned from any one frontline country would automatically be banned from the others.

Attending the meeting which discussed ways of combating South African "information aggression" - seen by the black

states as part of Pretoria's strategy of military and economic destabilization of its neighbours - were ministers from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The delegates declared that because many international news agencies and newspaper and broadcast outlets cover the southern African region from bureaux in Johannesburg, they had propagated a "distorted view" of the black states that "tends to give credence and credibility to Pretoria's biased view of reality in southern Africa". South African journalists working for the South African media, however, were not barred from the frontline states.



Bizarre bikes, barbecues and better mousetraps

Inventors - mad and otherwise - gathered at Longleat House yesterday for Britain's first inventors' day.

In the top photograph Mr Lucien Hewetson of Brighton meets Basil Campbell from Surrey on his far less practical baby rocker-pusher bike.

Some items were strictly for fun, like Mr Paul Sole's steam-driven barbecue spit (above left), while some were meant to make life easier, like Mr Jan Adamczyk's electrically powered garden spade (above right).

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the unveiling of a new "byke", designed by Dr Alex Moulton, inventor of the well-known small-wheeled, folding bicycle. There was also an electronic mousetrap, a non-misleading shaving mirror, an adjustable staircase, an automatic fish feeder, a wind-resistant blowlamp, and a wetly-wiper.

Letter from Atlanta Southern comfort for the people's prophet

All heads turned to the back of the ball and there he was, wreathed in light, the most exciting man in American politics. He strode forward as an electric organ blasted a fanfare and pretty women in Sunday best stood on chairs for a better view. Every speaker at the rally had been saying that history was being made here in Atlanta; and with the arrival of the hero not a soul in that exuberant crowd doubted it.

Six feet tall, lean, monstachioed, dressed in a dark three-piece, with a striped tie, the Rev Jesse Jackson bounded on to the stage as the chairman was saying "he not only looks like a president". He walks like a president. He words which detonated a fresh explosion of cheering and made the organist plunge his hands in the keys and wring out a chord of frenzied acclamation.

Asinger poured out a long gospel song while the audience swayed to the rhythm, and a preacher exhorted Mr Jackson's qualities ("the vision of an eagle, the industry of a beaver") while the crowd called out "yessir" and "right on".

And with the atmosphere electric with anticipation he summoned Mr Jackson to speak, introducing him simply as a prophet of God.

Mr Jackson is a phenomenon. He has picked up the torch of his teacher, Martin Luther King, and is leading a resurgence of the black spirit. He has fired blacks with the audacious idea that a black, perhaps to great-grandchild of slaves, can aspire to the presidency of the United States. He has thus made whites ponder, and has put pepper into the presidential preliminaries.

He has never said that he will run for the Democratic nomination; nor has he said that he will not. The speculation is part of the excitement. But many blacks now wear "Jesse Jackson for President" badges. And here in Atlanta, premier city of Dixie, there began the insistent chanting of his admirers: "Run, Jesse, run".

As he rides the wave of his own making it is hard to believe that he will not offer himself to the Democrats along with Messrs Mondale, Glenn, Cranston, Hollings, Hart, and Aiken.

Mr Jackson was in peak form, constantly bringing the 2,000 crowd to their feet. This

was a candidate's speech. He said simply that blacks, nearly an eighth of the population, want their share of the American dream.

"We die in war together. We pay taxes together. Now we want to share power together. Blacks will not settle for being the Harlem Globetrotters of the Democratic Party. Hands that picked cotton in 64 will pick the President in 84."

He urged blacks to get cleaned up, shrewdly, judges, congressmen and mayors, to make up the power-sharing deficit.

"Run for the courthouse. Run for the statehouse. Run for the White House. But run."

"Run, run, run," chanted the delirious crowd as the organist pounded chords.

It was a very long speech but Mr Jackson had the people with him. Now he abandoned his prepared text and flew into evangelical fervour. The air was charged and Mr Jackson was all preacher, gasping for breath. His throat gasping, "From a house to White House. Our time has come," he cried, and hands reached out to him, amidst the roar of ovation, he fell, drained, into the arms and embraces of his friends.

Mr Jackson was with Martin Luther King when that hero was murdered in Memphis, an event blacks call the crucifixion. Now, 42, Mr Jackson is a catalyst in the movement to get blacks registered as voters and to fight the obstacles and gerrymandering which still disfranchise many of them. He is the president of PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) and PUSH's annual convention in Atlanta last week has been in his long southern crusade to raise black political consciousness.

Mr Mondale, Mr Cranston, and Mr Hollings came here and said that a black should run. No one, they said, ever asked whether a white should run.

Mr Jackson is a charismatic activist and campaigner with no experience of political office. He could not get the nomination, but his point is that blacks need a revival of pride and he sees himself spearheading a movement to get more blacks into office. He said to me that there are risks in what he is doing, but also rewards.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

The Glasgow Tram: 21 years after, Museum of Transport, 35 Albert Drive, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun to 5; until Oct 30. From Quill Pen to Microchip: The Glasgow Herald 1783 to the People's Palace Museum, Glasgow Green, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; until Dec. Farming Through the Ages: Schools art exhibition, Address House, Loggahall, Northern Ireland; Sat to Thurs 2 to 6, closed Fri; until Sep 31. Welsh Open Photography 1983: Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,196. A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 and some filled-in letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Anatole's girl? (7), 2 Student centered dressed but confused (7), 3 Mexican native sounds like a sleuth (5), 4 Box with money produced by singer (5), 5 Poison supplied by copper - unusual! (6), 6 One unruly son best becoming overbearing (8), 7 Countries with some Bedouin dialects? (5), 8 Trains for, including ATC formation (9), 9 Perhaps snail's job is to reveal the fortification (9), 10 The way the cowpuncher hit? (5), 11 Fodder plant proved by inn - is of a peculiar type (8), 12 Understand proverb that invents children (6), 13 Girl we hear has occupation making such oracular books (9), 14 Distribute a good many - about 50 (5), 15 Base supplies inside information (5), 16 Perhaps he fancies being in retirement (7).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,195 will appear next Saturday. CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 8

Nature notes

Birds are on the move again, in a free and easy way. Blackcaps come out of the woods and into the gardens; they eat both the aphids and the fruit. The first black-headed gulls are back in towns, screaming at each other on park lawns. Woodpecker are beginning to flock loosely in the corn. On the coast, early migrants arrive on the mudflats and large purple heads, are still coming in. Drake mallards are beginning to moult, though there are still many families of small ducklings - easy prey for carrion crows and linnets who swoop down on them.

Lime-tree: Like small drumsticks, are already spinning to the ground. Thistle-down floats off their sharp, silvery-grey leaves and the middle of the leaves, which basal opens under hedges, the scent of opensuckle fills the woods after dark, during the night-flying moths. Small heat beetles feed on sandalwood, wasps start buzzing on the window-panes. DJM

Heater warning: The Department of Trade and Industry has warned all caravan, boat or holiday cottage owners using a Staxco 2 LPG liquid petroleum gas heater to have it checked by the Environmental Health Department of their local authority after a number of accidents, some fatal, involving the release of carbon monoxide.

Bond winners: Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 105-466717 (winner lives in Guyneville); £50,000: 18WN-438822 (West Sussex); £25,000: 3AN 966535 (Surrey).

The pound: Table showing exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.

Anniversaries: Births: Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck, biologist, Picardy, France, 1744; William Clark, explorer, Caroline County, Virginia, 1770; Deaths: Queen Anne (reigned 1702-14), London, 1714; Robert Morrison, missionary to China, Canton, China, 1834; Slavery terminated in British possessions, 1834; Germany declared war on Russia, 1914; Lamas Day.

Roads

London and South-east: A40: Roadworks eastbound on Westway at Shepherd's Bush; avoid. A23: Single lane southbound on Purley Way, Croydon. Roads closed, one-way streets and diversions at Bank junction, in the City, because of large burst water main; avoid. A3: Single lane southbound at times at Wisley, Surrey.

Wales and West: M5: Lane closures between junctions 13 and 14 (Stroud and Thornbury). A483: Roadworks and temporary lights at Ammanford, Dyfed. A40: Roadworks W of Carmarthen, Dyfed.

Scotland: Today is a bank holiday in Scotland; traffic may be heavier than usual. M8: Sanitary-decontamination on westbound carriageway. A891: Slip/go boards near Strathblane, Central Scotland. A92: Roadworks on interconnecting to Dundee road at Dalgety West junction, Glenrothes and Balfarg, Fife. Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Sunday Times reopened the corporal punishment debate. Under the heading "forward to the case against", it said it gave the impression of teachers appearing to teach exactly what they ought not to teach: that problems are settled by violence. "Since Ministers must legislate, let them legislate to end the whole pernicious nonsense and ban the cane for good," it added. The Observer agreed, saying "Britain's children are to remain the only group of people in Europe who can be assaulted with impunity. There is some evidence that it does harm, both physically and psychologically, and that it sours relations between teachers and pupils."

The Sunday Telegraph claimed that the Penrith-by-election showed that it would be dangerous for the Conservatives, watching the Labour Party absorbed in its own endless predicament, in lapse into a sort of unreflective ease. It now seems likely that Labour's left will capture both the leadership and deputy leadership of the party says the Daily Express. "So the new game plan is to win from the party will be reflected... from the left in the form of Mr Kinnoch in the Official Raving Loony Left of Mr Mober."

Weather

A thundery depression over Holland will move NE towards Denmark, and a cooler unstable NW airstream will cover the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: Showery, sun intervals; wind NW, fresh to strong; max temp 18C (65F). Midlands and East Angles: A429: Roadworks S of Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. A45: Roadworks on Nene Valley Way at junction of Bedford Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire.

North MI: Contraction between junctions 30 and 31 near Sheffield; restricted access to motorway at times. M6: Lane closures between junctions 43 and 44 (Carlisle), 46 and 47 (Leeds), 48 and 49 (Leeds), 50 and 51 (Leeds), 52 and 53 (Leeds), 54 and 55 (Leeds), 56 and 57 (Leeds), 58 and 59 (Leeds), 60 and 61 (Leeds), 62 and 63 (Leeds), 64 and 65 (Leeds), 66 and 67 (Leeds), 68 and 69 (Leeds), 70 and 71 (Leeds), 72 and 73 (Leeds), 74 and 75 (Leeds), 76 and 77 (Leeds), 78 and 79 (Leeds), 80 and 81 (Leeds), 82 and 83 (Leeds), 84 and 85 (Leeds), 86 and 87 (Leeds), 88 and 89 (Leeds), 90 and 91 (Leeds), 92 and 93 (Leeds), 94 and 95 (Leeds), 96 and 97 (Leeds), 98 and 99 (Leeds), 100 and 101 (Leeds), 102 and 103 (Leeds), 104 and 105 (Leeds), 106 and 107 (Leeds), 108 and 109 (Leeds), 110 and 111 (Leeds), 112 and 113 (Leeds), 114 and 115 (Leeds), 116 and 117 (Leeds), 118 and 119 (Leeds), 120 and 121 (Leeds), 122 and 123 (Leeds), 124 and 125 (Leeds), 126 and 127 (Leeds), 128 and 129 (Leeds), 130 and 131 (Leeds), 132 and 133 (Leeds), 134 and 135 (Leeds), 136 and 137 (Leeds), 138 and 139 (Leeds), 140 and 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